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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

VOL. 9.

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No. 9.

THE POLAND-CHINA OR MAGIE HOGS.

The origination of new and distinct breeds of animals by judicious crosses of various breeds, or by carefully rectifying bad points and increasing good points until a particular breed has become so distinct as to perpetuate their peculiar characteristics and thereby establish for itself a clear title to a distinct and separate name, the Stock Breeders of America have been behind the progress of improvement, in this line, manifested in Europe. England is ahead of all nations with her different perfected breeds of hogs and sheep, and her Durham, Devon, Hereford and other distinct breeds of cattle formed by patient, persevering skill and judgement.

In the United States, we are not aware of but two important improvements in the breeds of stock, so as to entitle it to the designation of a special, distinct breed. One is the "Trotting Horse," which by careful breeding and skillful training, has become renowned as surpassing any other breed of horses in the world for the purposes of light draft. The whole horse-world has been "*Startled*" by a young horse trotting one mile in 2:15. The other triumph of American breeders of stock is the origin of the *Poland-China or Magie* breed of hogs. A fine representation of a premium specimen is found in this number of the *Farmer*, taken from a photograph of "*Jim Crow*," owned by Messrs. Shepard & Alexander of Charleston, Ills., for whom, these gentlemen have been offered \$200. They breed extensively and we are happy to hear that this valuable breed of swine are being rapidly spread over the various sections of our country.

Messrs. S. & A. have about thirty old sows that average over 700 lbs. when in full flesh. They breed from about ninety-five sows and have at present on hand 400 pigs. There are nine brood boars, not closely akin, in their piggery. This breed is said to differ from the high-bred hogs of England

in that they can and do rough it like the old time "*hazelsplitters*," or "*land-pikes*," although it must be admitted the better they are cared for, the more food and cleanly lodging they receive, the greater will be their profit. They mature very early, making a good size for family use at six and eight months old, weighing then from two to three hundred pounds. This Poland-China breed, as we stated last month, was formed by judicious crosses of several of the best imported breeds, and has been established in the Miami Valley as a distinct breed since 1835, since when there has been no infusion of new blood, but has steadily improved by breeders interchanging and using none but the best animals thus produced to propagate the species.

In the formation of these two classes of improved breeds, above referred to, the American farmers give evidence of enterprise and progress, which in the trotting horse certainly exceeds anything ever done in so short a time, by way of improving any class of domestic animals, and let us hope that it will stimulate to still further progress in originating other new breeds, or bringing the existing breeds up to the highest standard of excellence, and that those efforts may be extended to all kinds of cattle, as well also, to fowls used for the sustenance or pleasure of man.

The hog furnishes the chief meat supply of animal food to the people of the United States, and therefore everything connected with the hog is deeply interesting to the thousands of consumers. We shall therefore close this article by quoting from Messrs. Shepard & Alexander's pamphlet on "*Swine and Swine Breeding*," when speaking of the importance of improving the breed of hogs:

"Some idea of the importance of improving the breed of hogs throughout the country may be shown by the following facts and figures shown by an official circular issued by the Secretary of the Cincinnati Merchants' Exchange: Whole number of hogs packed during the past season at the principal

points in the United States was 4,782,403; aggregate weight, 1,349,630,955 pounds, or an average weight of about 282½ pounds; total amount of money paid for same was \$55,818,711.00. Now, if these hogs had all been of some improved breed, their average and aggregate weights would have been much larger, and have eaten no more food.—It would have been no trouble, had they all been Poland-Chinas, to have increased the average at least 100 pounds. Taking this as a basis, there would have been added to the aggregate weight 478,240,300 pounds; this, at \$3.00 per hundred would have added to the wealth of the farmers and producers the sum of 14,347,209. Certainly every intelligent mind must see at a glance the importance to the farmer of getting the best stock as a medium for marketing his grain."

OUR TRAVELS.

On the 15th of July we left Baltimore in the Baltimore & Potomac R. R. cars at an early hour, and were pleased to see this new road starting under such propitious auspices. The officers were very polite and attentive to the passengers, evidently determined to win popular esteem. The cars were luxurious, and so free from jolt or noise as to enable conversation to be carried on in an ordinary tone. We reached Washington in one hour and forty minutes, passing through a country replete with quiet yet pretty scenery. On reaching Washington we mounted the box of the *Lightning* mail coach for Upper Marlboro', having six merry "insides," pretty girls and clever youths. The steeds were well groomed and trained, so that having no superfluous flesh they could the more easily withstand the intense heat of 95 degrees. The driver, who was experienced, had to use all his skill in holding up these fiery steeds, who seemed to spurn the ground over which they falling, flew; and flying, nearly fell, going so fast that we noted not the Navy Yard and its long bridge, nor anything until their wiry edge had been taken off by the heat, and the heavy load of trunks, mail bags, and nine grown people of an average over medium size. We had now come over a good turnpike, one of the recent public improvements in the noble old county of Prince George's. The team of three horses had been changed at Forestville, a pretty little village ten miles from Washington, and only two were made to drag our load, so we had time to cogitate of the past times of long ago, and observe the farms and crops, and listen to the funny sayings of the fair ones and the gallants shut up, cabined, and cribbed within the coach.

The first object of note was the large estate of Mr. W. B. Bowie, whose corn and tobacco was promising, and gave note of the late frequent rains, yet the pastures showed the effects of the long drought in the spring and early summer. Mr. B. lately

sold three colts four years old for \$1,200, of common stock. His plan is to feed high from the time they can masticate grain, and does not wean them until nearly a year old. Thus they grow to a large size, and have strong sinews, bone, symmetry and good action. It is the true system. All cattle are most economically grown, and yield the greatest profit, when well sheltered and high fed in their youth.

From this farm to the old town of Marlboro' the lands are superior, and crops looked very fine.—We passed through the famous *Mellwood* and *Strawberry Hill* farms, and those of Messrs. Claggett and Mrs. Graham. On all, the dwellings are large and handsome, some very costly, with beautiful grounds surrounding. The corn crop was late but promising, while we never saw a finer prospect for tobacco. But candor compels us to say there were instances where we discovered crops in the grass, and badly cultivated, owing no doubt to the mistaken and damaging practice of planting more land than there is force to work the crop properly. When will our friends "see themselves as others see them," and abandon this ruinous plan of working or attempting to cultivate too much land for their force and team?

We were pleased to see the improved breeds of cattle and horses in this section, but regretted to find descendants of our old acquaintances of forty years ago, black and hairy sheep, and "land pike" hogs. Let them remember that there are breeds of sheep, one of which will give more meat than six of theirs; and in the hog line, I hope, they will look at "Black Bess," in our last issue, weighing 800 pounds at two years old.

At 1 o'clock, P. M. we drew up at the post office, the *Lightning Mail* having performed the journey of 18 miles in the astonishing time of five hours and ten minutes, including stopages at sundry post offices along the route. We soon forgot our fatigue under the influences of the cheer and capital cuisine of that polite host and Prince of Hotel-Keeper, John Gardiner. Around the village are some of the most fertile, best managed and most productive farms in the county or State. Prince George's has always been, and is now, the largest tobacco growing county in Maryland.

Tobacco planting is still carried on by some persons on a grand scale; we learned that Chas. C. Hill, Esq., who owns a splendid estate near the village, has this year planted one million of plants, and that it was looking well, although, owing to the frequent rains, it had become very grassy.—From the village to the east are seen the fertile and beautiful estates of three brothers, Judge Hill, Richard Hill, and Col. Clement Hill. The latter gentleman has, since the Baltimore & Potomac R. R. has been completed to his farm, manifested great

energy and enterprise in enhancing the value of his farm by building a causeway and fine bridge at his own expense, for the public convenience in reaching the town of Upper Marlboro', and Judge Hill's Steamboat Landing on the Patuxent, two miles off. The Colonel has laid off a village at the depot, and named it "Seabrooke City," in honor of Mr. Seabrooke, the sole contractor for building the railroad from Baltimore to the Potomac River. There are already some fifty neat cottages erected and in course of erection, in this new city, and its surroundings on his farm; and all this has been done within a year.

We learned that among the many very forward and superior crops of tobacco, that of Senator and Editor Wilson was perhaps the best. It is only lately that he has become a planter, and it speaks well for an old editor, who as a young farmer, can use the hoe with the same power and success that he wields the pen. We hope ere long he will follow the example of his cotemporary, the Farmer of Chappaqua, and tell the world through *our* columns, "What he Knows about Farming."

More anon about Prince George's, its planters, its agriculture, its resources, and the many peculiar advantages it offers to immigrants, and persons who seek pleasant homes near the Capitol of the Union, the Capitol of Maryland, and the large and beautiful City of Baltimore—each and all three of easy access by water or railways, there being now running, two railroads, and two others building, of which some miles of both have been graded already.

CATERPILLARS.

These pests to fruit, and ornamental trees we never have failed to stop the ravages of, when we pursued the following course: As soon as we discovered their nest, we waited until it was fully formed, and the young were hatching within the web. Then we cut off the twig or limb to which it was attached, if the loss of the limb did not injure the symmetry of the tree; if it did, we burned the nest and all the young by means of torches. These torches are made thus. Get a long light pole, green, so it will not burn easily, tie around it securely a stick of sulphur, and wrap old rags, three or four courses thick, for a foot or more along the end of the pole; as you wrap, spread tar, and when finished, saturate it with tar, but not enough to cause the tar to drip while burning. In this way an orchard is soon gone over and freed from the caterpillar. But, of course, we recommend the destruction of each single one on the first forming of the web, as often as we see them, in our visit to the orchard, and they are within reach. Sometimes they seem to come all of a sudden in crowds, after a damp or wet spell. We have found them particularly hurtful to currants and dwarf pears.

For the Maryland Farmer.

TO YOUNG FARMERS.—No. IX.

Aim High—Do the Best—Be Thorough.

It was an old saying, that to make a noble mark in the world one must *aim high*; and in no calling is the admonition more appropriate and necessary than in farming; for, as all honorable achievements require earnest, manly efforts, no one ever accomplishes more than they aim at. A farmer will not obtain forty bushels of wheat from the acre, if he expects and labors for only twenty bushels. The boy who only hunts ground bird's nests, will never capture the eagle. Aim high for the richest game, or you'll fail.

Time is most profitably applied which is expended in doing any operation in the very *best known way*. If plowing land in the fall 12 to 15 inches deep, and leaving it to freeze and pulverize by the action of winter frosts, then plowing more shallow in the spring, with manure with ashes or lime in the hill, and thorough cultivation afterwards, will bring 80 to 100 bushels of good corn to the acre, when less labor and pains will bring only half that yield—then the former is the best way, and most profitable—though you only plant half as many acres. And you save time thereby; for it does not require *twice* as much time, of man and team, to raise 100 bushels per acre as to raise 50 bushels; nor does it take as much time to harvest 100 bushels off one acre as off of two.

Again—by pursuing the proper course, you may obtain 35 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre, with as much certainty as 15 to 20 bushels is now-a-days obtained. By examination of old records it is found that, not many years ago, a much larger yield—35 to 40 bushels—was common in Maryland and Virginia; and in the writer's earlier years, it was usual to get that yield in Western New York; and in later years he has frequently raised 40 bushels of good wheat to the acre in the Western States, and at less cost per bushel than it required to raise 15 bushels per acre. It was accomplished by preparing the ground in the best known way—of deep-plowing, thorough harrowing, careful selection of sound seed and soaked in salt brine, the field nicely top-dressed with barn-yard manure late in fall, and well sprinkled with lime early in spring. It costs little or no more to harvest 40 bushels from an acre, than to harvest 20 bushels from the same space; and there is less waste and danger of loss; while half the capital, in land, is saved—the best way, *is best*.

Thoroughness in doing work—in doing anything—is the index of character; a truly thorough man is, very generally, a truly honest man. A first-class farmer is one who does everything well, slights nothing, and avoids all slovenliness—does all things in the right time, right manner, and right place—does everything the best he can.

LAND MARK.

Our Agricultural Calendar.

FARM WORK FOR SEPTEMBER.

This first month of autumn is an important period of the year for farmers. Now is the time when they gather some crops, secure others for future operation in preparing them for market, and also the time to lay a foundation for yield of others in the coming year. Tobacco is to be housed, corn cut off and put in shocks; land cleared of weeds and briars, and fallowed for wheat, &c. Farmers should determine to do well whatever work they have to do in regard to the seeding of their grain crops. Let them not be deterred by the failures in wheat for the last few years, but with renewed energy apply themselves to overcome difficulties, and make double efforts to secure a crop the next year which will repay their expenses and labor.

Tobacco.

Secure the tobacco as fast as it ripens, and see that Jack Frost does not surprise them. In regard to the management of this crop, we now merely call attention to our views as expressed in our last issue.

Corn.

The hay crop is known to be everywhere short, and corn-fodder is the only thing we have left to make up the deficiency. Secure, therefore, a supply of well cured fodder, either by pulling the blades and cutting the tops, which plan we do not like, or by cutting off the stalks at the ground, letting them lay a day to wilt, and then setting up in small shocks, tying with straw rope, or small succor corn, the shock near the top, to prevent its being blown down.

Corn may safely be cut as soon as the grain is free from milk, and too hard for roasting ears. The stalks are then succulent, and the blades green.—Next winter it will be fine food for horses and cattle fed whole, but if the stalks, blades and shucks are passed through the cutter and crusher combined, which are to be had of any large dealer in agricultural machinery, and moistened with warm water, and sprinkled with meal, bran or shorts, and a little salt, it will be found for mules and cattle to be as good or better than clover hay. It is superior food for milch cows. It would be better, however, if it was steamed, then it would be also good for horses and hogs. Properly managed, corn-fodder is worth more to the farmer than the grain itself. It is therefore important that it should be saved in time, and afterwards taken care of, so that its value as food be not impaired or rendered totally worthless by bad management.

Rye.

If not already sown, it should be done as soon as possible; the earlier rye is sown the better the crop and the less seed it requires. When sown, it should be neatly and thoroughly put in, and clover and timothy sown with it. No crop returns more for the pains taken in its seeding than rye, and no grain crop is usually so carelessly and slovenly sown. If it be worth sowing it surely is worthy of being carefully sown. We believe if the same care was taken in the preparation of land for this crop as is taken for wheat, and it was sown on equally good land, and fertilized as we do wheat, on most farms it would pay better than wheat has done for some years past. Rye straw, threshed with the flail and rebundled, sells as high nearly as timothy. When *baled* it is worth \$25 per ton. We, however, are not advocates for the crop to supersede wheat, we only say if it be sown, it is wrong to pursue the old slovenly way, and recommend that this grain be sown with the same care and expense in fertilizers and work as is expended on the wheat crop.

Wheat.

We are advocates of early sowing of this crop. From the 20th of September to the 15th of October is a good time, and it gives a long interval for the farmer to get in his wheat in a farmer-like and thorough manner. For various reasons, which have been so often assigned, (we deem it useless to recount them now,) we say plow your land deep, or subsoil after a four inches deep furrow slice of turf; lap the furrows well, harrow as fast as it is plowed; keep the land loose and clean by the "*Smoother Harrow*." Drill in five or six pecks of wheat per acre, with 200 pounds of any fertilizer rich in phosphatic matter, or pure, fine ground bones; over the whole broadcast one bushel of salt mixed with two of plaster, per acre. The seed should be good, plump, heavy grain, which had been cleaned of all small grains, cockle, onion, and all other impurities, by the "*Montgomery Screen*," spoken of in our July number. Soak the seed in brine, and roll it dry in plaster or slaked lime. If you have no good seed wheat of your own, buy such from those who have, or send as far north of you as you can get good seed. We are of those who believe in a change of seeds, and that cereals are best when taken from a northern locality, or from Europe. The once popular wheats have certainly deteriorated in size of grain, weight and productiveness. The loss is immense which yearly proceeds from inattention to the character of the grain that is sown, and a still greater amount might be *gained* if every farmer would do his best to save and sow annually a few bushels of picked, selected wheat, with a view of improving the seed, or ob-

taining a new variety looking to increased productiveness, weight, color and qualities adapted to the manufacture of the whitest and best flour. An effort in this direction on the part of our intelligent farmers would essentially aid agricultural progress, and increase individual wealth.

Fences and Ditches.

See that your fences are in good order, that your crops may not be trespassed upon, and your stock at this time do not contract the habit of fence-breaching. Ditches ought to be cleaned off and opened, and new ones dug where required.

Briars and Bushes.

Destroy briars and weeds, and clean the fences of bushes, after being dried burn up, or haul all in the barn-yard in a green state, with some of the turf from fence corners and ditch banks.

Potatoes and Turnips.

Keep potatoes and turnips free of grass and weeds.

Cider.

You may begin cider-making this month. The fallen fruit and early apples make very good cider for vinegar, which sells as high as good drinking cider. There is much waste on all farms having orchards, and that waste of fruit ought to be avoided, and converted into meat or drink, even if extra labor is to be hired to accomplish it.

Roads.

Repair, straighten, and make all necessary new roads on the farm, and make them as firm and well drained as possible. If time and opportunity allow, assist the Road Supervisor in mending the bad places, and in grading the hills, on the public roads near your farm. Good roads are invaluable, and raise the price of lands in every neighborhood where they are to be found.

Top-Dressing for Meadows.

Two bushels of refuse salt, 2 of plaster, and four bushels of fine ground bone dust, well mixed together and sown broadcast over the meadows, per acre. If there are thin places sow grass seed on them, harrow well, and give a double dressing of manure. After harrowing, roll. Keep the stock off, or graze your meadows but little if you wish a good yield of grass next year.

Orchards.

If you intend to plant an orchard, the ground selected for the purpose should this month be deeply plowed and sub soiled, and pulverized by frequent harrowing; lay off the land with the plow, or by tape line and stakes, dig the holes three feet in diameter, and two feet deep; work in the bottom of the holes a half bushel of one part leached ashes or

bone dust, one part well rotted manure, and fourteen parts of woods' earth or rotted turf and mould. The quincunx form, or five in a square, one being placed in the centre of the square, is the best way to plant an orchard. Then the trees can be worked on every side, and the land kept level. It is every way desirable. Apples and cherries should be planted forty feet apart; peaches twenty, and plums or quinces ten or fifteen feet, dwarf trees eight feet.—In setting out an apple orchard it is a good plan to plant peach trees between each apple tree, as they will be out of the way before the apple trees will want their room. We will not lose this opportunity to impress our readers with the great importance of having a good orchard of well selected choice fruits of the different sorts, ripening in regular succession. Cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, pears, apples and quinces, all are valuable luxuries "after their kind," and indispensable to the health and comfort of a family, and without them no farm is complete in its appointments. Let us warn you against tree pedlers; most of them are imposters, and none are as reliable as the first-class nurseryman, from whom alone you ought to buy, because you get the trees cheaper, and you have a guarantee that you get what you buy. These tree-peddlers, or agents for selling fruit trees, with their brightly colored fruit pictures have done incalculable mischief in our southern country particularly, and yet intelligent gentlemen are daily found buying of them largely. We would also recommend our farmers to buy of our nurserymen near home, where the trees are acclimated and grown on soil similar to where they are to be transplanted, and from men who know the sorts of fruits best adapted to our soils and climate, rather than send off a thousand miles for the same article grown on a different soil, and used to a different clime, when it can be had at our doors, and can be seen *bearing* if we choose to visit the nursery.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry, in referring to the yield of corn in the United States in 1870, which, according to the census report, was, 1,094,000,000, sets down the yield in 1871 at 1,100,000,000, which, it says, at 14 pounds of cobs to the bushel, will yield 15,400,000,000 pounds, or 7,700,000 tons of cobs, containing an average of three-fourths per cent. pure carbonate of potassa. We have the enormous quantity of 115,500,000 pounds of that valuable alkali lost to commerce annually, which, if thrown into trade, would add very largely to the general resources of the country; and if it were practicable to procure and remove the potash from all the cobs grown in the United States, it would indeed constitute a mountain of the valuable alkali, *Germantown Telegraph*.

Garden Work for September.

This is the month to sow and plant, that a supply of vegetables and salads may be secured for use in early winter and spring. Our suggestions, it will be borne in mind, refer in most all cases to the early part of the month. The first thing is to clear the garden of all weeds and grass, and get in well rotted manure, for the beds to be immediately put in order for seeds or plants.

Gathering Seeds.—As they ripen gather the seeds and dry them on cloths or boards. Save only the best from the choicest sorts.

Herbs.—All herbs may be transplanted in moist weather.

Celery.—Earth up celery for blanching. If dry, apply liquid manure made brackish. Be sure to earth up only when the ground is dry, and the plants are free from dew.

Small Salading.—Of all kinds may now be sown for fall use.

Endive.—Plant endive, and tie up or cover with earthen pots those plants which have reached the full growth.

Turnips.—A bed of turnips may now be sown if the ground is rich.

Siberian Kale.—Prepare a dry, rich bed, rake it well, sow kale as thick as you sow turnips. Rake in the seed, then tramp or roll.

Spinach.—Work the growing plants, and drill more seed for spring use. The bed ought to be spaded deep, very highly manured, and seed sown thin in the drills, a foot between drills; cover an inch deep. When the plants come up, thin to four inches apart. Protect the plants after frost sets in, with a thin covering of brush. After the last working in October mulch between the rows with coarse stable manure.

Radish.—Sow radish seed; the ground cannot be too rich. Best sorts for autumn and winter are the Spanish and the Chinese sorts. When frost sets in they can be taken up and preserved like turnips, or placed in a barrel with dry sand between the layers; sink the barrel in the ground, and heap straw on the head of the barrel, when they are accessible at any time of winter. The *Rose Colored Chinese* is the newest and best winter radish we have. The only proper soil for this popular edible is a rich, light, sandy loam.

Cardoon.—Earth up cardoons, and treat as celery. They are grown for the mid-rib of the leaf, which must be blanched.

Cabbage.—Sow a small bed of the Early York cabbage, and one of the famous Jersey Wakefield, for planting this fall and next spring.

Cauliflower and Broccoli.—Keep these delicious

vegetables well worked, and in dry weather water copiously every evening. Sow seeds of cauliflower for transplanting into cold frames to stand over winter.

Gooseberries, Currants and Raspberries.—Plantations of these should be made early this month on good soil, three feet apart, well watered if a dry spell, and mulched with long manure from the stable.

Strawberries.—Work the beds, and keep the runners of strawberries cut close. Plant new beds.—The ground should be well drained, rich and friable. Set the plants 15 to 20 inches apart. Water if necessary until they take root and are growing; keep the beds well stirred with the hoe and rake, until November; then fill the spaces between the plants with straw, leaves or corn stalks, and poles or brush laid across to keep the leaves or straw from blowing away. On a small scale, the best mulch would be leaves, and they kept in place by a sufficient covering of rich woods' mould saturated with brine or soap-suds. It would then remain undisturbed by the winds, and next spring be in condition to be worked in the soil as a coating of manure. We have tried nearly all the noted new varieties of his delectable fruit, and found the *Triumph de Gand*, *Albany Wilson* and *Russell* the finest and most profitable on the variety of soils in this section. On rich clays we know no finer strawberry than Knox's 700 or *Jucunda*. Our friends cannot go astray in planting any of the most approved sorts. A small space of ground devoted to strawberries, if properly attended to, will yield an abundance for a family. Every plant or hill may safely be estimated to yield a pint during the season, so that each one can calculate the number of plants he would require for his family supply. One hundred plants would certainly yield an average of two quarts per day for three weeks. Who, then, that loves to see his household enjoy the luxury of a wholesome fruit, will hesitate to plant and properly take care of only 100 strawberry plants?

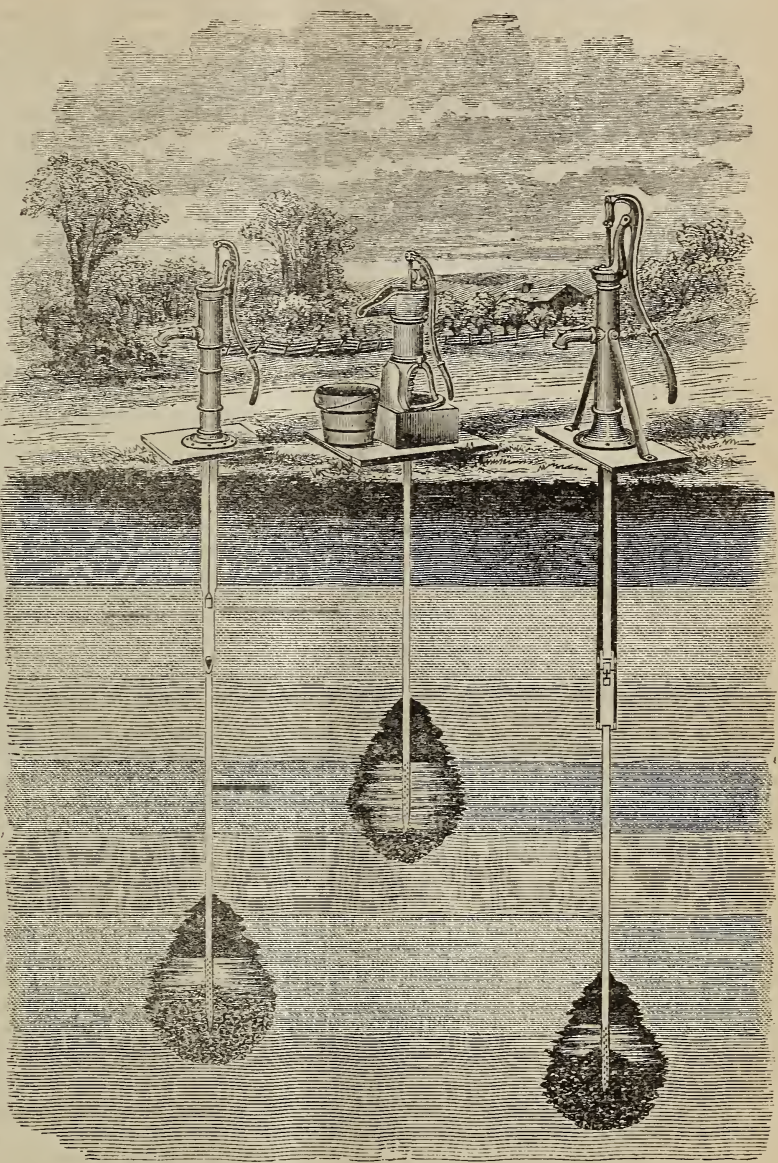
Rules for Weighing Hogs.

The Kentucky rule for estimating the net weight of hogs is said to be, for the first 100 lbs., deduct 25 for gross: for the second 100 lbs., deduct 11½; for the third 100 lbs., deduct 6½, all over the third hundred is net. The net weight of a hog weighing 100 lbs., gross is 75 lbs., a hog of 150 gross will net 138½; of 250 gross, 209½ net, and a hog the gross weight of which is 300 pounds, will net 256½ pounds. From the gross weight of a hog that goes over 300, 43½ pounds only is deducted, even should the weight be 400. This rule if correctly stated, may be of use to somebody.

COWING'S AMERICAN DRIVEN WELL.—Sectional View.

It would be superfluous to make further mention of the endless variety of purposes and pursuits with which the Driven Well will be identified, as the time is rapidly approaching when the merits of this extraordinary invention will be illustrated by universal use. As an instance however, of the attention which they are attracting among other nations, we give the following extract from the *London Mechanics Magazine*:

"Probably no invention of the present day is causing among scientific men so much attention, as is this exceedingly simple and yet most efficient apparatus for obtaining, in almost all situations, pure water at a small outlay. It consists of nothing more than an Iron Tube, perforated with holes at the lower end, and shod with a Steel Point, which enables it readily to penetrate the hardest soil. This tube is driven into the ground vertically, by means of repeated blows given by a hollow Monkey, working on the Tube as a guide; these blows are received upon a strong Clamp, firmly gripping the Tube near the ground, the Clamp being from time to time raised as the Tube descends into the earth.* The process of driving is continued until it is ascertained, by means of a Plumbline, that a water-bearing stratum has been reached. A Pump is then attached



FERGUSON & BARKER, N.Y.

to the Tube, and the water obtained. At first the water pumped up comes thick and dirty, but after a time it comes clearer and clearer, until that is perfectly pure which remains. It is evident that, apart from the simplicity of the Tube Well system, its great advantage is in the purity of the water. If the Well Drivers come to water inferior in quality or quantity, they may drive through that into a lower and better stratum, and completely exclude the upper water; and then, as they pump, the smaller particles of soil pass through the perforations into the Tube, and are drawn up, leaving behind a bed of gravel and small stones which forms a natural reservoir and filter to each Well, and insures the purity of the water subsequently pumped up. It is of recent introduction into this country, but is already beginning to be adopted by all those who value the

purity of water. The Government, after testing it practically, at Aldershot, have sent a special brigade and a number of Wells with the Abyssinian Expedition. The Emperor of the French has had several Wells sunk, under his own personal supervision, with the most decided success, both at Buchy and Paris, and has ordered a number for the use of the army and school of agriculture."

*In America this method is dispensed with, the blow being given directly to the pipe.

We are indebted to Cowing & Co. of Seneca Falls, N. Y., for the above illustration of the American Driven Well, and the description, &c., we copy from "Cowing's Illustrated Journal of Hydraulics and Mechanics."

NOTES, CLIPPINGS & COMMENTS.

BY THE EDITORS.

We make the following extracts from the monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture for March and April, believing the facts set forth will be interesting to our readers. It is to be regretted that a more particular statement as to the character of soil, quantity of manure, mode of cultivation, the season, &c., had not been given by the growers of the several crops referred to.

PREMIUM CORN CROPS IN VIRGINIA.

The following particulars are from statements on corn by competitors for premiums at the Rock-bridge County Fair, Virginia: Farm of J. D. H. Ross, clay loam, upland; an old timothy and white clover sod, plowed in December with three horses, harrowed four times with three horses; hills marked 3 feet by $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, and manured with home-made compost, a handful to three or four hills; plowed three times in the course of the season; one acre yielded 75 9-10 bushels of shelled corn, 56 pounds to the bushel, and five acres gave 253 4-7 bushels. Farm of A. L. Nelson, loam, with clay subsoil; in grass for four years; plowed in February to a depth of 12 or 14 inches, and harrowed well just before planting, April 26 and 27; the hills received plaster and ashes at the rate of two-thirds of a bushel of plaster and one and one-third bushels of ashes per acre; one acre yielded by measure 91½ bushels; by weight, 86 bushels 37 pounds each; five acres yielded 317 bushels by weight. Farm of G. W. Pettigrew, on a sandy loam, having a northeastern exposure, and overlaid by one to three inches of soil deposited by the flood of 1870; plowed in April to the depth of ten inches, planted April 12; one acre yielded 89½ bushels by measure, or 97 bushels 47 pounds by weight, and five acres gave 400 bushels and 40 pounds by weight.

EXCELSIOR OATS.

Mr. John De Lyser, of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, gives the following as the result of his experiments with Excelsior oats:

In the spring of 1869 I received from the Department of Agriculture 10 pounds of Excelsior oats. Owing to the wet season, I only succeeded in raising $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, weighing 40 pounds to the bushel. In 1870, I sowed this seed on a half acre of ground, and secured 22 bushels of oats weighing 42 pounds to the bushel. Last spring I sowed 11 bushels on four and one-half acres, and raised 40 bushels to the acre, (thrasher measure,) weighing 49 pounds to the bushel, being 61 8-32 bushels (of 32 pounds to the bushel) per acre.

WHEAT AND POTATOES IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

At a recent meeting of the Le Roy Agricultural Society, Genesee County, New York, C. K. Ward reported a crop of 352 bushels of Diehl wheat, grown on 8 acres, which had been dressed with about eleven loads of manure per acre. This yield averaging 44 bushels per acre, was the largest he had ever obtained. W. L. Bishop reported 1,400 bushels of Diehl and white Michigan wheat on 50 acres, averaging 28 bushels per acre, worth \$1.60 per bushel. Expenses per acre (on summer fallow) \$18.20, leaving a profit of \$26.60 per acre. H. Ives, of Batavia, reported 3,600 bushels of potatoes, Early Rose, Goodrich, Harrison and Jackson,

on 24 acres, averaging 150 bushels per acre. Total value of the crop, at 40 cents per bushel, \$1,440; expenses, including \$16 for manure on one acre, taxes, and 7 per cent. on land, valued at \$180 per acre, amounted to \$972, or \$40.50 per acre; total profit, \$468; per acre, \$19.50. Mr. Ives has had long experience in this crop, and this statement represents his average product and profit for a course of years. He plants on a clover sod of one year, and does all the tilling with shovel-plow and cultivator, running them once a week till time of wheat harvest. H. H. Olmsted, president of the society, reported 2 400 bushels of Early Rose potatoes on 10 acres, averaging 240 bushels per acre, and 820 bushels of Harrison on $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, averaging 328 bushels per acre.

WINE PRODUCT OF 1871.

In a paper read before the Mississippi Valley Vine-growers' Association, at a recent session, Mr. Bush estimated the production of Missouri at 1,000,000 gallons; Illinois, 1,200,000; New York, 2,250,000; other States east of the Rocky Mountains 1,000,000; California, 7,000,000; total, 12,450,000.

At a meeting of the Le Roy Agricultural and Horticultural Society in the State of New York, it was reported to the Society that "Mr. C. K. Ward raised 8 acres of Diehl wheat, 44 bushels per acre. It was well manured with ten or twelve loads per acre. White Michigan on the same field yielded only 33 bushels per acre.

Mr. J. Peck, of Stafford, raised the pure Diehl wheat after barley, putting twenty loads of manure per acre. Yield, 30 bushels per acre, and quality excellent. Mr. W. L. Bishop raised 50 acres of wheat—25 each of Diehl and White Michigan—raising 1,400 bushels or 28 bushels per acre, worth, at \$1.60, \$44.80, leaving a net profit of \$26 60 per acre.

Mr. A. Hill, on $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, raised 77 bushels shelled corn; corn, fodder, and pumpkins brought \$105.50; expenses, \$49.50, leaving a profit of \$56. Mr. R. Sweetland raised 150 bushels of Sanford ears per acre, but would not recommend it as a general crop.

Mr. J. E. Hazleton said that there are no orchards in this county too old to be productive. Many trees in New England two hundred years old were still healthy and productive. The best time for pruning is after the middle of June. Several gentlemen denounced the injudicious pruning practice employed in many cases."

HEAVY YIELD OF CORN.

J. Sanders, of Saunders County, Nebraska, *deposes* that he raised 18 acres of corn last year, which averaged 90 bushels to the acre. J. H. Nesbitt, of the same county, also *deposes* that 75 acres of corn raised by him averaged 97 bushels per acre, while another field of 175 acres averaged 85 bushels per acre.

TREE PLANTING.

The California authorities have acted wisely in employing a skilful tree-planter with a salary of \$15,000 per annum, to superintend the extensive planting of timber trees in the different parts of the State. This planting of trees on a large scale is being done in several of the Western States, either by individual efforts, county associations or under

the direction of State authority, at the public expense. It would be well if this important measure for the benefit of posterity was fostered in the Border and Southern States. Timber yielding forests are disappearing in our country at a fearful rate. The indiscriminate, wasteful destruction of trees is a suicidal policy for the present, and a robbery of future generations. Too many trees cannot be planted. Every man should yearly plant at least as many trees of valuable sorts, as he has acres of land. They could be planted by the road sides, on steep hill sides, in the deep gullies, along permanent fences and in vacant places in the woods.

An intelligent French gentleman sends us the following translation from a French newspaper :

SHOO-FLY.

With heat, flies come. Every one knows the amount of inconvenience this insect brings with it. We believe then that the following easy recipe to kill them will prove acceptable to our readers.

Boil 8 grammes (6 43 pennyweights) of quassia amara in half a pound of water, (250 grammes) and strain; then add to that liquor the $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pound of molasses (62 grammes;) put that preparation in plates, the gluttonous flies will find there a sure death.

HYDROPHOBIA.

The question of mad dogs is the order of the day. We will indicate the following remedy which we find in *le Courier des Familles*. It is a very simple to use and is infallible. Get at your druggist three handfuls of *Data Stramonium* (thorn apple,) boil it in a decanter of water until reduced to half; then administer the beverage to the sick person in one dose.

A violent fit of rage follows soon, but of short duration; abundant perspiration follows it. After 24 hours, the patient is said to be completely cured.

This remedy was communicated by Rev. Father Legrand, a missionary, who has preached the Gospel in the Empire of Annam and Tonkin. He tried it himself, and of 60 sick persons to whom he administered it, he obtained 60 cures.

The above recipe has been translated for us from the highly respectable French paper above referred to. It at least would be well to try it, as Hydrophobia has been considered incurable heretofore.

RAPE OR COLESEED.

The *American Agriculturist* tells what it knows about Rape or Coleseed, thus:

Rape is a plant related to the turnip, but has not a root like that. It is grown wholly for the green fodder, or for the seed. It is, like the turnip a biennial, and flowers in the second year. It thrives well on black peaty or muck soils, and is useful for bringing such soils into condition for other crops. A rich sandy loam is also very suitable. When sown early in July, it will be ready for sheep to be turned on in October and November, and they will get it during winter from beneath the snow if it is not too deep; it may be fed again early in spring, and the refuse should be or may be plowed in when

not completely fed off before it seeds, when a crop of wheat may follow with advantage. It is often grown for the seed, which produces rape-oil, and the cake left after the oil is expressed makes a rich feed for sheep or cattle. The haulm or stalks furnish very good dry feed. It would be a valuable winter fodder crop for sheep where the snow does not lie deeper than a few inches. A peck of seed per acre is needed when sown broadcast, three pounds when in drills. The seed can be purchased at most of the large seed-stores. The black seed fed to canary-birds is rape-seed.

THE PYRACANTHA.

S. B. Parsons says the new white (alba) has white flowers and orange berries, with small narrow leaves, and very distinct in appearance from the old variety, which has roundish ovate leaves and red berries. The white is much hardier and resists frost. Cold, 14 degrees below zero, does not affect it in slightest degree.

MILLET—SCOTCH KALE.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

Your kind favor of the 5th ult. came duly to hand. * * * When I mentioned the fact of the great difference in our experience as to the value of millet as a forage crop, I did not propose to write an article on the subject for the press, but simply give you my experience in its cultivation and use—for your own benefit. I will not say that one acre of it will keep eleven head of horses fat, but I will say one acre, well prepared and cultivated, will give eleven head of horses all the forage they need from the time it is six weeks old until frost kills it, and that it will require much less grain while feeding on it to keep them fat than on any other forage plant that I know of. In 1871, at my summer residence in Richmond county—poor pine land—I prepared a little less than one-fourth of an acre in the best possible manner that I could, laid off the rows three feet apart, and sowed the seed thickly in the drill; in about five weeks I began to cut it, and to feed one horse, two large milk cows and two calves, with an extra horse from Friday night to Monday morning of each week, without stint, until November, when we had our first killing frost—and I cut and cured, and put in my barn, enough to carry them to Christmas. This is no guess-work, for I, with the assistance of my little son, planted, tended, cut and fed it to the stock. It will bear cutting, on good ground, say land that will bring twenty-five bushels of corn per acre, every two weeks. Of course I do not mean to say it will run up to seed in that time, but will make a growth of from two to three feet—at which stage I find it a capital feed for stock, and fed perfectly green I have never seen the slightest bad effects from it. I have planted it many years, but never so closely observed its great value until since the war, since which time I have been obliged to give much more of personal attention and labor to everything connected with planting. I may state in this connection that I plant the Rat-Tail millet; there may be better kinds, but it is good enough.

Will you please tell me how to manage kale? I sowed the green curled this spring, and I think it one of the prettiest plants I ever saw—it has grown up quite tall. I have been plucking the beautiful

ruffled leaves, and cooking them as spinach; it is a delicious dish. I read of a different mode of treating the plants, but my thick skull can't get the hang of it. But I fear that you are ready to cry, "hold enough," so for fear of wearying you I will close, with my best wishes and most respectful regards.

GIDEON DOWSE,
Burke County, Georgia.

NOTE BY THE EDITORS.—All we have to say about the millet is that we never saw or read of so prolific a sort of millet, and suppose it must be owing to the climate and soil of Georgia, or that it is a distinct variety. As to *Kale*, the kind most commonly sown in autumn is the Siberian kale, grows low. See *Garden Work* in this issue of the *Maryland Farmer* for its mode of culture. The variety grown by our correspondent is the tall, green curled Borecole or "*Tall Scotch Kale*," sown in beds in spring, and transplanted like cabbage, and in early winter, after sharp frost, is used by being prepared as our friend has his cooked. The low growing sort is sown in autumn, and used in winter and spring like cabbage sprouts. The tall growing sort is more palatable, especially after being frozen by heavy frosts, and the tender upper part alone used. Burr in his "*Vegetables of America*," says: "If frozen when cut, put them in cold water until the frost is out of them. It will take thirty to forty-five minutes to boil them tender. Put them in boiling water, to which add a lump of soda. This rather softens them, and causes them to retain their green color. When done press the water out, chop them up, put them in a vessel to still more evaporate the water, and serve with melted butter, pepper and salt. In Germany they frequently boil a few chestnuts, and chop up with the kale; between which and the stem and stalk of the kale it is difficult to perceive much difference in taste. The beautiful curled leaves are quite ornamental." It grows two to three feet high on good land, and one hundred plants will give pluckings for the table twice a week from November to January, fresh from open ground in the coldest weather.

AMONG THE BERRY FIELDS OF NEW JERSEY.

A correspondent in the *Kent News* gives a brief description of a recent visit to Burlington county, N. J., the party consisting of a number of gentlemen of Kent Co., interested in fruit culture, who were invited by Mr. Jos. S. Williams. The correspondent, *Rambler*, says:

"On reaching Philadelphia we proceeded to the palatial residence of Mr. Williams, who has made a beautiful and productive farm of 150 acres out of what was a few years ago a dense forest. He has a pear orchard of 10,000 trees and a large quantity of vegetables of all kinds in a very flourishing condition, all planted for the Philadelphia market.

From here we were driven to the magnificent estate of Wm. Parry, about seven miles from Camden, where we saw thirty pickers in a ten acre field engaged in picking Wilson's blackberry, from which he expected to pick 500 quarts per acre, at an average price of 14 cents per quart. The growth of cane was very fine, and we were assured that they had not been fertilized in any manner since planting, which was about ten years ago. From here we were driven to the farm of Mr. J. S. Collins, where we saw eighty acres of the Wilson berry, which gave employment to 300 pickers. We did not have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Collins, and consequently could not learn anything of the yield per acre, but judging from the appearance it could not be less than that of Mr. Parry.

On the 22d we took the 4 P. M. train at Philadelphia for Wilmington, Del., where we were met by Mr. R. Peters, the extensive nurseryman. Mr. Peters has a large stock of peaches, apples, pears and evergreens of all kinds—he also has a great deal of Connover's Collossus Asparagus. On the 23d Mr. Peters, drove us to his farm at Newark, Del., a distance of 14 miles, where we saw his pear orchard of 10,000 trees. This orchard is about a mile west of the town; the ground is rolling and stoney. The trees we planted ten years ago, half standards and half dwarfs, set 20 feet apart each way. The crop of fruit is large."

SAVING IN THE STABLE.

A Long Island farmer, Mr. W. H. Risley, thus discourses on the stable manure and its adjuncts. He says:

Experience has demonstrated that stable manure, properly composted and cared for, is the very best general fertilizer that can be used. But the bulk and the expense of transportation—if it could be bought—must confine its use to the supply that can be produced at home, or obtained very near. With system and care this supply can be largely increased by gathering, at the proper season, everything of a vegetable nature that can be fermented and decomposed, and storing it in a convenient place for use. Every animal should be made auxiliary by being kept in stables, yards, or pens, and the ground floors of which should be kept covered with vegetable litter. As often as this litter becomes soiled it should be removed and placed in a pile (under cover is best) and fresh litters spread on the floor. The liquid being rich in ammonia, it is important that care should be taken to have it all absorbed and preserved with the litter which furnishes the carboniferous element. There is some art and skill required in order to generate, combine, and preserve the most valuable elements of stable manure. The raw pile will not ferment during freezing weather. But in the early Spring it should be removed to a suitable place to form into a pile about four feet high to ferment. The pile should be covered with a layer of dry muck, or rich earth, or, what is better, if to be had, ground plaster of Paris, to absorb the gases, ammonia, nitrogen and carbonic acid, as they are generated during fermentation.

JAKOBB DUNK PAPERS
ON
FACTS, FILOSOPHY AND FARMING.
PAPER NUMBER XII.

On Agricultural Literature.

This branch of our great calling has been so often misrepresented and misconstrued, that an attempt to remove certain erroneous ideas concerning it, and to give an interpretation of its own conceptions of its high mission may not be altogether unsuccessful at this time, particularly when we contemplate the rapidly-extending desire among farmers to bring to their aid all the contributions which art and science offer for their acceptance.

While this desire is greatly attributable to the intellectual expansion which has followed the general dissemination of knowledge; necessity is also a prominent motor in this matter. We see the trades pushing on their sturdy ranks in hot competition; the power they possess in money and votes; the influence of capital; the development of other sections of our country by settlement, and facilities for placing their productions by the side of ours in our own markets; the impoverishment of our lands by the exhausting processes of other days; distance from market by the means usually employed, and the bad condition of rural highways; the small returns from the large outlay necessary to secure profitable results to agricultural operations; the combinations in commerce and trade which work against the farmer; the consciousness of a superior calling and a higher destiny, all unite to produce in the intelligent farmer a conviction that every fountain which human research has dug from the empire of the human mind should be made tributary to the stream of his own practical tillage, upon whose tranquil bosom he may peacefully glide to an abundant harvest.

Chief among these fountains of supply is the agricultural press; from this flow forth farmers' clubs, agricultural education, rural improvement and refinement, and a thousand other advantages, which give to the vocation of the husbandman its choicest fruits and its proudest fame.

But farmers do not all think so: led away by misconception and prejudice, there is a class which steadily opposes everything in the shape of agricultural literature under the general appellation, "book farmin'."

I was talking this matter over one day at the Landing with several farmers I met there, who nearly all agreed that a change in our wholesystem was needed, and that the change should be forward; in a direction to develop the mind as well as profitably employ the body of the farmer, and that the current agricultural literature was calculated to produce exactly these results.

Jakobb was down there at the same time with a load of corn, and coming back I intimated to him "the necessity of encouraging this valuable adjunct to the farmer's success; not on account of pecuniary advantage to that interest—although that necessarily and justly follows—but because *our* success as farmers depends upon a use of the means it suggests."

I find it quite as profitable to talk about our business as we travel along the highway, as it is to elucidate the details of the latest scandal, or assail the motives of some neighbor's actions.

"Don't know 'bout this yere book farmin'," replied Jakobb.

"What don't you know about it?" I asked.

"Don't b'leve in farmin' it 'cordin' to books, an' them things; farmers kin git along 'thout em," replied Jakobb.

"Mr. Dunk," I asked, "why should not farmers have a literature devoted to their interests? The different branches of trade have their press representatives; the leather-men have theirs; the coach-makers have theirs; the iron-men have theirs; the insurance offices have theirs; merchants have theirs; art and science have theirs, and would you deny farming the privilege and benefits which other pursuits employ?"

"Mout do well ordnally, but they teeoh folks sich outrajus things," replied Jakobb.

"What peculiarity have you observed in their proceedings?" I asked; "do you take an agricultural paper?"

"No; I don't take no paper," said Jakobb, "an' wot's more don't want to; give me good rich land an' I'll make a crop 'thout goin' to a paper to find out how to do it."

"Exactly; but one great object of our press is to make land rich by the cheapest, quickest, best and most profitable processes, and the different processes of different farmers who have succeeded are recorded for the benefit of other farmers; would'n't you like to know how to make *your* land rich?" I asked with great simplicity, rather "sarkastikul" perhaps.

"Joodge," said Jakobb, "ef a man wants to git along in farming, let him stick clus to practis; *that'll* make the land rich," and Jakobb grew very emphatic, and a *leettle* excited; he "took sumthing" down at the Landing, whose medicinal properties are not those of nerville. I noticed he "took sumthing" several times while we were waiting—call it equivalent to a pair of small shoes.

"You have been practicing on your land forty years, Mr. Dunk," I replied, "but it is not rich yet; how long does it take by your mode of practice?" I asked.

This argument had a "pint" to it, and Jakobb "seen the pint."

This *practice* upon which your *practical* farmers depend so greatly, to the utter exclusion of all recorded experience, is sadly deficient in results. I say sadly deficient, because it is humiliating to contemplate the statistics of our production, and as I think it will be conceded that nineteen out of twenty of our farmers are "practical," as distinguished from "book" farmers, the difficulty must lie with them and their modes of practice.

Now, what are the results of this "practical" system? Let us take our own State—Maryland.

In 1870 we had 525,244 acres in corn, which produced 11,818,000 bushels; *four barrels and a half per acre!!!*

494,020 acres in wheat, which produced 4,792,000 bushels; *almost ten bushels per acre!*

25,142 acres in rye, which produced 264,000 bushels; *ten and a half bushels per acre.*

136,916 acres in oats, which produced 3,286,000 bushels; *twenty-four bushels per acre.*

[With over a million acres in this crop, (I doubt the accuracy of this high estimate,) Pennsylvania averaged over thirty-two bushels per acre; they take more kindly to "book farmin'" up there, for they run three or four farms just to try experiments on. I have noticed Jakobb's oat crop for years,

and it never "averiges" over *ten* bushels per acre. I saw a field of oats on my way to the Landing, which I estimate at four bushels per acre; it was considered too poor to cut; in a fence-corner of the field I saw a horse with a poke on; to keep him from travelling fast enough in the tangled crop to pull his shoes off, I suppose.]

13,388 acres in potatoes, which produced 897,000 bushels; *sixty-seven bushels per acre.*

Maine averaged 125 bushels per acre on over 52,000 acres; 22,797 acres in tobacco, which produced 14,522,000 pounds, 637 pounds per acre; value of crop, \$1,248,891, whereas the value of the crop in Massachusetts was \$1,509,360, although but 4,658 acres were planted. On one-fifth the land they raised twice as much per acre, worth \$260,468 more than the product of our 23,000 acres.

Connecticut raised from 5,996 acres 6,270,000 pounds of tobacco, (1,250 pounds per acre,) worth \$1,693,780; one-fourth of the land, twice as much per acre, worth \$444,888 more than our own crop. We know that it is a common thing for Maryland farmers to raise 50 to 100 bushels of corn; 30 to 70 bushels of oats; 20 to 30 bushels of wheat; 100 to 200 bushels of potatoes, and 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of tobacco—per acre—and to reduce these figures to the low averages mentioned above, indicates a rate of production among *practical* farmers which my own observations have satisfied me is simply ruinous.

A practical farmer of my acquaintance began operating fifteen years ago with three or four thousand dollars; he helped me to get up oats last week at seventy-five cents a day; he worked by the moon and the blackberry rain, and signs and symbols, enough to make him as devoted a follower of the Rosicrucian Philosophy as Cagliostro himself; but all those things are exemplary; "book farmin'" is detestable.

Another farmer—I must stop; my space is limited to six columns, and I do not wish to fill them all with the instances of failure of practical men.—I placed all these things before Jakob, and concluded with

"Now, Mr. Dunk, this is the record of practical farming; what is the result of *your* forty years practice?"

Jakob thought of his poor acres, his falling barn, his decaying fences, his mortgage and his debts, his past of hard work, and his future of struggle to keep his head above water, and then—did he admit that something must be wrong; that his practice in all things *might* not have been perfect; that there *might* be a better way, and that books *might* be able to throw some light on the rugged path of his toilsome practice? Oh, no; he attributed his failures to the stars and seasons, and bad fertilizers, to everything but his practice, and that was the only thing that was wrong about it.

"Enny how, Joodge," said he, "I can't afford to patronize farmin' literary matters, and don't git no time to tend on it."

His liquor bill, and tobacco bill, and time bill, up at the Codge, would have furnished him a library of agricultural literature, and time enough to read it.

I suggested that "perhaps he might economize in other matters with considerable advantage to himself, and with sufficient success to allow him both time and money for such purposes," but "he was ruinin' things jus' as clus to nothin' as pos-

sibil, and didn't see where there was enny marjin on current expenses, and agin," he continued, with another exhibition of surplus steam, "I don't bleeve in enny sich nonsense as them fellers teech; there's fellers in that line o' business that write about wot they don't kno' nothin' about, and never seen a farm." This is an argument I have heard used for fifteen years.

"Give me the name of one man who offends in that manner," I replied, "and if they *do* perform such things, any sensible farmer is proof against the ignorance of a man who knows less than he does."

Jakob "couldn't name no names, but," he continued, and putting on his spectacles began to search his pocket-book through, "it stands to resin that no man that knows ennythin' *kin* write sich things as these yere; I tho't you'd be a pitchin' into me 'bout some ov this business sum time, an' I jist saved up a few scraps o' book farmin' to show up the thing. Now, what do you think o' this yere," and Jakob pulled out a lot of old paper rags from his pocket, and began his exposition of their contents with about as much excitement and emphasis as a man can carry and keep the thing moving.

"Here's a luvly thing—

"It has been ascertained by carefully conducted experiments that animal as well as vegetable development can be best perfected by intercepting the direct rays of the sun, and transmitting them through blue-colored glass upon the object of culture. Animals and plants thus treated have exhibited greater rapidity of growth, and earlier maturity than others otherwise treated in the same manner, and the distinguished agriculturist who has performed this service to our agriculture by instituting these costly experiments, has secured a patent for the process, and will shortly take measures to place his modes of procedure before the agricultural public."

"Which means, I suppose, that we'll soon have fellers travelling over the country in covered wagons sellin' the right to put a blue glass cage over stunted heifers and drouthy cabbage plants for five dollars a farmer; jes heer 'im how he rattles on:

"The principle upon which these experiments were based was the supposed injurious properties of the various colored rays which united form the white light of our atmosphere, and which are absorbed and modified by their passage through the blue glass of the distinguished experimenter."

"Ain't this a diskovry? Natur's been wrong sence the fust fig leaf was raised, and we've jest found out that all we've got to do to raise big crops and big animiles is to roof over our farms with a lot of blue sky-lights, and they'll grow the'rsells; it 'ud be a good plan, Joodge, to put that little Alderny bull o' yourn under a few, wouldn't it?"

The animal was small, but I said nothing. Never stand in the way of *anything* when it is under full headway; it shows nerve, but it lacks judgment, and a small amount of nerve will answer with plenty of good judgment behind it. The young man from the city who stood between a stone wall and the full tilt of a male sheep, down grade, because he was too brave to run for anything, thought so too—after he paid the doctors's bill.

"Then look a yer," Jakob went on:

"A distinguished agriculturist of England considers a good shower-bath daily an absolute necessity in the raising of hogs, and in accordance with this theory, his hogs are each treated with a shower-bath every day."

"It 'ud be a good plan for us too, Joodge, to have a bath-house in every field, and pass the critters through it every mornin', with a culled feller inside to lather and wash 'em, and then dry towel

'em; it 'ud be very helthy for em, would'nt it, hay?

"Here's a putty one—

"Accurate experiments by a distinguished agricultural chemist have demonstrated the fact that corn-fodder contains little or no nutriment, and consequently is almost worthless, or at best, of little value for food."

"That's a fine idee; all we're got to do now with our fodder is jes to haul it down to the river, and float it out ov the way, for say anything that haint got the aliments of food in it aint worth nothin' for manure, and we needn't be so partikeler as we used to be 'bout hauling it off and stacking and fencing ov it in to feed the cattle on in winter."

"Agin:

"An analysis of corn-cobs proves that they possess more value as food than meadow hay, red clover, peas, (in blossom,) or the average of grasses."

"I'd like to take all the dockyments in one hand and a pail of kobs in the other, and jes convince my milky herd ov the truth ov 'em. The way things is now it shows wot a poor kemist a kow is; haint they got out enny new thing, Joodge, to give a kow a first-rate kemikil edyerkashun?

"Agin:

"It has been found that sugar is an excellent absorbent of atmospheric ammonia, and farmers will find that the practice of sowing this article broadcast will have a tendency to increase the stores in the soil of this indispensable element of plant food."

"Kan't git sugar enuf fur tee and caught, 'thout sayin' anything about havin' of it enter the land, and here's another one who 'advise farmers to employ corn meal and wheat bran as fertilizers, they having been found effective thus used," and by-and-by I s'pose they'll be tellin' a farmer to sow his wool and cotton on the land, and go 'round at harvest and pick up bed-quilts and overcoats; but here's a individuol that appears to be a doin' better'n any ov the rest ov 'em:

"Carrots should be regularly watered, but should not receive more than a pailfull apiece, nor be watered when they are hot, as it might give them the colic, or otherwise disagree with their digestive organs."

"Kollic a Karrit!" said Jakob, and the serious astonishment of his countenance was irresistible.

"It's no laffin matter fur them that follers all these d'rection," Jakob suggested.

"Are you through?" I asked.

He had several more counts of similar import in his Bill of Indictment against Book Farming.

"Mr. Dunk," said I, upon the conclusion of his harangue, "I can give you my opinion in a very few words upon your exceptions; what is the color of your spectacles?" They were green.

"Has Nature been wrong these hundreds of thousands of years simply because the first human being was not furnished with green spectacles? Green spectacles are as artificial over your eyes as blue glass is over a pig or a turnip; Nature furnishes the raw materials, and man's combinations of them are in the line of natural development; this argument about Nature would do very well if we could find out what Nature is, and in the meantime we shall be justified if we use the blue glass, or anything else that is practicable; as for the bath, the pigs upon which it was tried were no doubt pen pigs, and not loose like ours, and the advantages of a shower-bath upon them properly administered will not be denied by any farmer who has got beyond the rudiments of his vocation; the study of animal physiology is a part of book farming, and it takes some learning to find out how little we

know about it; the fodder statement has been qualified to mean that under certain conditions it is an approximation to the truth, and has elicited facts in practice which indicate that under those conditions corn-fodder possesses relatively small value; the value of cobs as feed was demonstrated before the chemical analysis of its ashes appeared, and no one who has given the matter attention is surprised to find the practice sustained by the theory of their value; and if sugar, or meal, or bran, or anything else, can be profitably employ as a fertilizer, we can have no rational objections to making such use of it."

Jakob could see no virtue in any deviations from the practices of his fathers, and if failing crops and worn out buildings, and mortgages and heavy taxes and bad roads, are insufficient to convince the Dunk of the necessity of a change in our modes in accordance with the teachings of agricultural literature, we must wait until the seed we are now sowing shall spring up into the white harvest of educated farmers, whose pens and brains shall be as mighty for their calling as the swords of the ancient knight-hood were for their fealty and fame.

In the meantime let us glance at the record of our literature during a career of thirty years. It is gradually bringing up the low averages which the records of our production exhibit, by showing that four tons of hay, or its equivalent in fodder, forty bushels of wheat, one hundred bushels of corn, one hundred bushels of oats, thirty-five bushels of rye, fifty of barley, fifteen hundred of tobacco, and soiling and market crops in proportion, may be raised on one acre of ground, and giving the names of the men who have done it, and their way of doing it; is it strange that farming does not pay those who thus blindly disregard the experience of such men simply because it is printed? What other vocation shuts its eyes to the evidences of distinguished proficiency in its ranks? It saw weary backs bending under the labor demanded by the imperfect tools of the period, and leading labor by the hand, opened a way of communication between it and the fast-developing mechanical genius of the age, and the strain of incessant hand toil has been replaced by the easy ride around grain and grass fields.

It has made gardens out of waste places, replaced thorns by fruit trees, and gathered on fertile hill-sides a hundred improvements of the starvelings which man had tolerated around him.

It saw the farmer endeavoring to raise the reluctant cereals on ground too wet for their culture, and gave him an implement to make two fields out of one by deepening its soil to dry the seed bed for their delicate foot-steps.

It saw a neglected Nile floating to the sea with the precious burden of two hundred millions of tons of fertilizing materials upon its bosom; and pointing to the impoverished nations of the past, shouted beware! into the ears of the American farmer; the tide has measurably been diverted to lands in culture, but the warning voice still sounds throughout the land, calling upon its followers to arrest the evil.

It saw the farmers' low lands encumbered by useless vegetation, a nest for destructive vermin, a pit for wandering cattle, a snare for man, and sending forth a breath that was pestilence and death, and told him the spot would be a mine of uncounted wealth if he would labor to secure its treasures by drainage.

It has opened the laboratories of the disciples of

the mystic art of chemistry, and whilst giving the farmer the benefit of their devotion and their lore, has sent back to the laboratory the results of its theories; and standing forth as a High Priest at an altar of union, has wedded Science and Labor in bonds whose strength will increase with time.

Crowned about with garlands, and girt about with the regalia of its high order, it has appeared to the farmer, struggling in the mire of the valley of ignorance, and imbedded in the sand of the physical arena, and led him like an Angel of Light up to the table-lands of intellectual acquisition and enjoyment.

Struggling against the full force of the masses to be benefited by its exertion, it has never faltered; and now, with all that is intellectual in agriculture around it, its standard is in the van of a grand army of Progress, whose columns shall yet meet (like the champions of freedom in our revolution) in the center of the overthrown edifice of Prejudice, to receive the votive offerings that shall be laid upon its triumphant altar-piece.

For the Maryland Farmer.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—If you thing the following article would interest your readers it is at your service.

That labor, energetic and persevering labor, lies at the very foundation of everything grand and noble there can be no doubt in a sensible mind; without it, man can accomplish comparatively nothing; whilst with it, there is hardly anything, humanly speaking, that he cannot accomplish. Indeed, labor is the great and governing law of the universe, the vital principle which, under God, all things depend for their existence. God himself worked, and thereby set us not only the first but greatest example.—So, also, did his Son work, though the lawful heir to all things in heaven and on earth. In short, all Nature works; and nothing, except some animals in human form, ever conceived the idea of being an exception to this general law.

But my object in this article is to speak more particularly of *agricultural work*, which, by some, in times past, has been considered rather debasing, and beneath the dignity of a *gentleman*!

The words which we read in Genesis, iii, 19, "In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread, until thou return unto the ground," are not only a curse, but seem plainly to carry in them the force of a precept, enjoining Adam, and all his posterity, to take pains for their livelihood, and diligently to employ themselves in their several generations, both for their own support, and for the benefit of others who might stand in need of their help.—That this was a precept of divine institution, and not merely a curse, seems plain from the fact that it was enjoined upon Adam *before* he had received the curse, to dress and keep the garden, and not merely to enjoy the pleasures of it. And though

there may not have been quite so many thistles before as after the curse, in it, and its fertility such as not to require any very laborious work to dress and keep it, yet God, in thus employing Adam, plainly showed that he did not intend he should live in idleness, but on the contrary, that he should be both a *law* and an *example* to his posterity.—And, accordingly as Adam himself lived, so in like manner he raised his children; his two first-born, though heirs apparent to all the world—so rich, that in comparison with them, even Cæsus himself would appear a beggar—yet had they each his employment; the one, a tiller of the ground, the other, a keeper of sheep; of which kinds of business both may be properly classed under the head of farming. Indeed, the greatest men of the most ancient times in regard to their connection in agricultural matters, were classed under the head of shepherds; hence we may properly say that Abraham, the father of the Faithful, was a shepherd, and at the same time too powerful for four kings! Job was a shepherd boy, who, besides oxen and camels, had seven thousand sheep; and yet is said to be the greatest man in the East. Thus, too, was Meshah, King of Moab, a shepherd, who annually paid unto the Crown of Israel one hundred thousand lambs, and as many rams. In short, this kind of business, or husbandry, was not only the occupation of the Patriarchs of old, as we have already seen, but also of the first founders of Kingdoms and States. Among the Jews, Persians, Greeks and Romans, we find that kings, consuls, dictators and generals, were not ashamed of this employment; and, not to mention Cato, Varro, Virgil, Pliny, and other great literary names who tempered the severity of their studies with the pleasing toils of agriculture, we find some of the most distinguished among the Romans in the military art, and of the greatest service in the commonwealth, such as Camillus, Regulus, Fabius and Cincinnatus, were taken from the plough, as Gideon was among the Israelites, from the threshing floor: and Elisha was called to the high office of a Prophet as he was driving one of the twelve ploughs his father had running in the field!

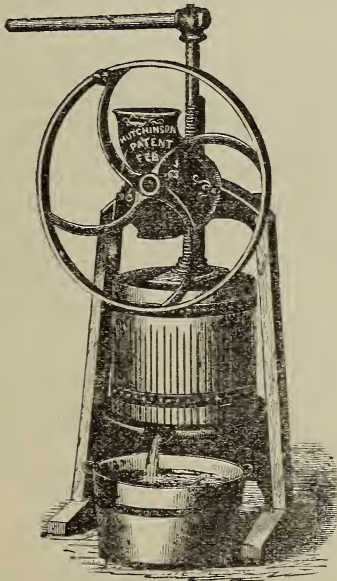
Thus we have seen upon what principle and business the Lord himself first started Adam and his family in the world, and that many of the best and most learned in every age since have not deemed the same business unworthy their attention. And I will simply remark here that the young will find it of the greatest importance to look back upon, and often to read over, the histories of great men and heroes long since dead and gone. For their histories are so many examples propounded to us for our imitation; and not only do they serve as examples for our imitation, but also as stimulants to make us imitate them. But to conclude this subject for the present, I will observe that as agriculture was not only the first business started in this world, but started by the Almighty himself, I consider it the *best* business.

A. D. J.

Baltimore, July 22, 1872.

CIDER AND WINE MAKING.

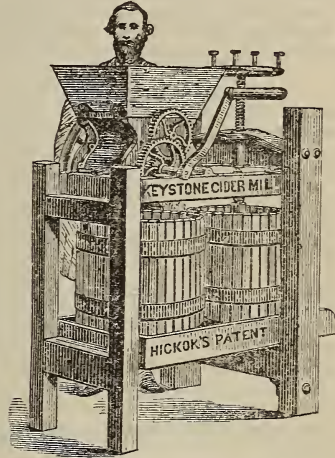
The season has approached when the work of cider-making and wine-making must go on, if it is intended to be done. Farmers will derive pleasure and profit from making cider and wine. The best cider and wine pays most profit; the rejected, half decayed apples will make a fair cider if used soon after being made, or will make fine vinegar which pays well. A nice wine is made from the wild grape, either Fox or Chicken grape. The latter best—we have drank wine made of the pure juices of the latter, with some sugar added to give it "body," which was far better than the oft found Borgan decoctions made in this country and sold as Rhenish wine of the first class. We append a few recipes for making a first class cider and wine that command at all times very high prices; they have been tried and may be relied on. We also give a valuable (for we have tested it;) recipe for keeping cider in the condition it is racked off for a long time.



Hutchinson Mill and Press.

To facilitate cider or wine making, every one ought to have a cider press, and we would recommend Hutchinson's No. 1, Family Mill with Press combined. Price \$22. It is the best mill and press, for convenience in moving about, weighing only 150 lbs., for those families who make cider and wine for their own use only. Its capacity it is said, is 8 or 10 bushels of apples per hour, and 10 to 12 bushels of grapes, currants, etc., per hour; at which rate one man can make two or three barrels of cider

per day, or from 100 to 150 gallons of wine, while it is always ready to make a pitcher or bucket of cider, or wine in a few minutes. It will compress the family cheese and extract the lard from the scraps, and can be applied to many other uses.



Hickok's Patent Keystone Mill.

For making wine and cider on a large scale, Hickok's Patent Keystone Mill we have used and found to be highly meritorious. It is many respects ahead of all competitors. Its capacity from 6 to 8 barrels per day, can be worked by hand or horsepower. Price \$40. These machines are sold by Messrs E. Whitman & Sons, and by other Agricultural Implement Houses. One or the other Mill and Press is indispensable for making either cider or wine of a good quality.

TO MAKE CIDER.

Pick all the apples, rejecting those not sound, wash them clean, and afterwards let them lie and get dry. Grind and press them, using no water or straw, or any substance that will give the cider an unpleasant taste, as on the purity and cleanliness of the apples depends the quality of the cider. Strain the juice through woolen or other close bag, put into clean barrels, and set in a moderately cool place, keeping the barrel full all the time, so that the impurities may work off at the bung. After it has done fermenting, carefully rack it off, let it stand a few days, and bung it up.—As the air tends to sour the cider, it is a good plan to provide a bent tin tube, one end fastened in the bung and the other to drop down into a bucket of water. This will let all the gas pass off, and not let the air get to the cider. The quicker the pomace is pressed after being ground, the lighter will the color be, and darker if not pressed for twenty-four hours after being ground. The cider from the second and third pressing will be the richest. The reverse is the case in making wine, as a severe pressure on the *must* makes sour wine. Cider making should be conducted with all the care that wine making is.

Most any good sour apple will make cider, but more generally an apple full of juice, and not very good to eat, will make the best. The Virginia crab perhaps excels all other apples for making cider.

When bottled up with a little rock candy, and wired, it will, after standing some time, sparkle like champagne, when opened.

To get cider very strong, expose it in a tub in extremely cold weather, and remove the ice that forms. As this can be only water, it leaves the cider that remains of additional strength.

Any substance put in to arrest the fermentation is of doubtful value, as all good cider must be perfectly fermented to be healthy. You had better depend rather on careful and clean making, and bottle tightly at the proper time.

WINE MAKING.

Pick the grapes off the stems when fully ripe, rejecting bad ones. Pass them through one of the Wine Mills to tear open the skins, but not to bruise the pulp. Press moderately; then get all that remains in the must to make brandy or an inferior wine of. Strain and fill into clean barrels; then insert a bent tube tight in the bung, and let the lower (outside) end rest under the surface of water in a bucket, so that while all the gas shall escape, the air will not get to the wine. When it has done fermenting, rack it off into clean barrels, bung it up, and set in a cool place; bottle it in a few months. The great secret of making good wine is to select only the best grapes, and not press out the sour portion of the pulp. Nothing is here said about the numerous mixtures of water, sugar and grape juice, which are frequently concocted and sold under the name of wine, but only of the pure juice of the grape, properly fermented.

TO PRESERVE CIDER.—We give the following receipt for preserving cider, kindly furnished us by one of our lady readers, and having recently tasted of cider kept sweet and clear by this method, can testify to the value of the receipt: To one barrel of cider put in one pound mustard seed, two pounds raisins, and one-fourth pound of the sticks (bark) of cinnamon.—*Maine Farmer.*

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

The following from Col. Waring's Ogden Farm Papers, advising the abandonment of the raising of this root under certain circumstances, even after having recommended its culture, would indicate that it is not a very desirable crop, though many have advised its culture. Hear his experience:

Occasional letters received, asking for information about Jerusalem Artichoke, remind me that I owe some amends to readers of *The Agriculturist* who have taken my advice to adopt this as a root crop. It is all very well so long as you want artichokes; they grow easily and anywhere, and produce enormously of nutritious roots, but, if left in the same ground, they finally crowd it so closely as to make very small tubers, and then it becomes desirable to rotate them out of office. In this part of the programme I have signally failed and any one who will show me how it is to be done, shall have my hearty thanks. I believe that they might be in time fed out by hogs, but as my patch is in the centre of a farm without interior fences, this is impracticable, and I have tried plowing, mowing, freezing, pulling, digging, and hand-picking to no purpose. I have now over about a quarter-acre not less than ten robust plants to the square foot—the very worst weed I ever had to contend with. All that I have heretofore said in favor of this plant is strictly true. I did not know until now how true is the other side of the story, and I would advise no one to try it, except in a patch where hogs can be confined if necessary."

NITRATE OF SODA AND SALT.

Alderman Mechi, the English Agriculturist, gave expression at a recent meeting of an English Farmer's Club, to the following upon these fertilizers:

"One farmer uses nitrate of soda and salt, and finds it very profitable; when this news spreads many more farmers use nitrate of soda and salt, and find no benefit from it. Why this is so? The success of this application depends upon there being in the upper or lower soil a quantity of phosphate of lime that wants dissolving and diffusing. Where this is the case nitrate of soda succeeds, but where there is no undissolved phosphate it more than fails, for it merely forces a surplus of high-colored and mildewed straw, to the injury of the kernel. Nitrate of soda and salt possess this advantage, they are not fixed and retained in the surface-soil like ammonia, potash, and phosphate of lime, but are free to circulate through the soil down to the drains, and can therefore dissolve any phosphate of lime that they meet with in the soil and subsoil. A gentleman near Carshalton informs me that for many years he has obtained large corn crops, merely using as manure nitrate of soda. His soil must, I presume, superabound with undissolved phosphate of lime. He has several hundred acres. On some Norfolk farms where, by cake-feeding and artificial manures, there is much phosphate of lime in the soil, nitrate of soda and salt are found profitable."

Prof. Voelcker said: He had no fear of the exhaustion of land after a time where guano was constantly applied. It had been asserted that guano was exhaustive to certain land; he had made every inquiry, and he could not find it so. He always found, the more guano the heavier the crop, and he had not found an instance of land exhausted by it. He had much more fear of the exhaustion of the supply of guano than of the exhaustion of the land. It was, indeed, a very serious question what they should do when the guano failed them. They would then be thrown upon the use of nitrate of soda, and it was as well that they should begin to see to what advantage nitrate of soda could be turned. There was great danger in using nitrate of soda, injudiciously, for if there were not the mineral elements in the soil to build up the plant nitrate of soda would do on good. It was like plying with the whip a horse whose strength was gone. He had opportunities of seeing the unfortunate influence of nitrate of soda on poor soils. At the same time it was a valuable assistance in conjunction with other manures—phosphatic manures and potash salts.

A GOOD LITTLE DOMESTIC ANECDOTE.—A young mother was in the habit of airing the baby's clothes at the window. Her husband did not like it, and believed if she saw her practice as others saw it she would desist. He so directed their afternoon walk as to bring the nursery window into full view from the central part of the town. Stopping abruptly, he pointed to the offending linen flopping unconsciously in the breeze, and asked sarcastically:—"My dear, what is that display in our window?" "Why," she replied, "that is the flag of our union." Conquered by this pungent retort, he saluted the flag by a swing of his hat, and, pressing his wife's arm closer within his own, said, as they walked homeward: "And long may it wave."

Pomological.

Prepared for the Maryland Farmer.

POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS—AUGUST.

The meeting of this Society, held on Tuesday, the 6th inst., was one of more than usual interest, and full attendance; the members are composed of citizens of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Besides the Washington Press which were represented in the meeting, were the *Richmond State Journal*, by Col. E. Daniels, and the *Maryland Farmer*, and *Richmond Farmers' Gazette*, by Col. D. S. Curtiss. Chalkley Gillingham, President, in the chair, and P. H. Folsom, Secretary.

Mulching.

A useful and animated discussion on this subject was elicited in answer to a letter from "D.," near Ellaville, Md., who asked for the best mulch, how and when to apply it, and under what circumstances it should be used, to pay.

Prof. Wm. Saunders said the object of mulching was to retain moisture, and that pulverized soil was good and always at hand, and might be made as fine as dust; it should be loose and porous; dews would be absorbed by it; dry soil was best.

Dr. R. P. Darby cautioned members against the use of "green trash;" too much of it produced a heat which would destroy that which was supposed to be benefited.

John T. Bramhall said that mulching would pay well; had set out and reset a lot of fruit trees, and those lived and thrived best that he mulched. Most died that he did not treat in that manner.

Major J. H. King stated that he would use anything at hand that would not become baked and hard.

Col. Curtiss favored the simple dry earth, made very fine. By being fine a power was given it for thorough absorption of any available moisture, and shading the roots and ground from the hot sun, to prevent evaporation, was good.

Dr. J. Brainard would combine plant food for manure where he could, with his mulch, and therefore recommended, first, the use of tree leaves, &c.

Dr. Brainard read an interesting paper on the habits of insects that prey upon the grape-vines and fruit, literally bleeding to death, even going through the grapes to deposit its larvæ with seed, which, in its turn, ate the kernel of the seed.

His remarks were fully illustrated by drawings, enabling those present to see the exact state of things.

The subject was debated by others; and friend Gillingham read an instructive paper in regard to the insects which injure the apple orchard.

Captain H. D. Smith, of Arlington, Va., largely concerned in fruit growing and the canning business, said his effectual way of destroying the worm and web was to have a very large tin torch filled with kerosine, such as is used in torch-light processions, and then quickly scorch them to death.—Other members suggested other modes of getting rid of the caterpillar and moth, and grub.

The exhibition of fruits on the tables were very fine and beautiful, comprising apples, Siberian crabs, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, and paw-paws; and most of the specimens, in the several varieties, were of the highest order.—The principal exhibitors were John Saul, Chalkley

Gillingham, Dr. Darby, Jno. T. Bramhall, Major H. C. Williams, S. H. Snowdon, Dr. E. P. Howland, R. T. McLain, Capt. H. D. Smith, with a handsome basket of splendid peaches, grapes, nectarines, &c., and Col. E. Daniels, with some thirty varieties of choice grapes and pears. Major King, though exhibiting no fruit on this occasion, introduced a number of handsome and intelligent ladies, an example the Society would be glad to see generally emulated; there is no reason why women should not be present at and enjoy the meetings of these societies.

The Society arranged to hold its annual fruit and flower display and exhibition in the Board of Trade Rooms, on the first Tuesday in September; and it is requested that all fruit and flower growers will be present with their offerings; and the public are cordially invited. The doings and discussions of this Society are working a beneficial influence on the Pomology of the Potomac region, and the Society receives new members at each meeting, and we hope that it may flourish and become nationwide in usefulness and fame, and Washington and the District of Columbia should take pride in its promotion—which, no doubt, they will.

D. S. C.

MULCHING.

We copy the following from the *Tribune*, communicated to that paper by Bryan Tyson, of Washington, D. C.:

"I saw an article in your paper that recommended mulching for pears, strawberries, blackberries, &c. But light culture, rather than mulching, was recommended for grapes. "Grapes will ripen more uniform and earlier in the season when the surface is kept free from weeds and grass by some implement that may run shallow." This difference in culture is doubtless attributable to the fact that the products first mentioned require a low temperature, while the last requires one much higher—the benefit of all the light and heat that can be obtained.—For the same reason, mulching is of great benefit to Irish potatoes, especially if they be grown far South, but the same treatment will prove ruinous to the sweet. It is said that in the mountainous regions of Ecuador, South America, the finest Irish potatoes of the world are grown. The climate there is generally about 80 degrees, and varies but few over or under that throughout the year. By mulching in warm climates we approximate that temperature, and especially if the potatoes be planted about the 20th of June (for the climate of North Carolina,) so as to mature in September and October. There is in the climate referred to an immense difference in favor of Summer over Spring planting, and the same would probably hold good much further north.

I once tried mulching for sweet potatoes on a small scale. I selected a few ridges and filled between with corn shucks, packing them down well. The vines grew luxuriantly, but in the Fall I found the potatoes, or rather strings, to be scarcely as large as my fingers, while those adjoining that had not been mulched yielded well.

From the foregoing I deduce the following: That while mulching may answer an excellent purpose in maintaining a supply of moisture during long and continued drouths it will not answer for crops requiring a high temperature."

THE MARYLAND FARMER, A STANDARD MAGAZINE.

EZRA WHITMAN,
Proprietor.

Col. S. SANDS MILLS,

Conducting Editor.

Col. W. W. W. BOWIE,

Associate Editor.

OFFICE—145 WEST PRATT STREET,
Opposite Maltby House,
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BALTIMORE, SEPTEMBER 1, 1872.

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Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association.--The Rooms of the Society for the present are located at the corner of Charles and Lexington streets, Baltimore, where Farmers and Planters of this and other States are cordially invited to call whenever they may visit the city.

GEO. S. BROWN, *President.*

D. C. TRIMBLE, *Gen'l Secy.*

Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

The Fair to be held by this Society on the 8th of October, at their Pimlico Grounds, promises to be a great success, as everything to further that end goes on swimmingly, and all indications point to the certainty of this desirable result.

OUR THANKS.

We have cause for self gratulation in the great increase of our subscription list since our Reorganization, five months since. Should this encouragement continue to the end of the year, we shall have quadrupled the number of subscribers. Our thanks are tendered to our brothers of the Press generally for their flattering notices of our journal. The numerous letters and personal assurances from the practical, substantial patrons of the *Maryland Farmer* that we have fully met their anticipations, are grateful to our feelings, and inspire us with confidence to continue our efforts to gratify the wishes of our many friends, who desire to have a thoroughly practical monthly zealously devoted to both the great and small agricultural and rural industries and economies.

Mr. L. A. Coghill, of Lothian, King George Co., Va., will accept our thanks for the melons and box of delicious grapes from his two-year-old vineyard. Mr. C. speaks of the excessive drought still continuing, (August 15th,) and that the mills are stopped, so that he and his neighbors have to send twenty-two miles to get corn ground. Mr. C. sends us specimens of soil from a piece of land, just reclaimed by draining, having for several years been under water, and asks our opinion as to the best fertilizer for its renovation. The earth sent us is a sticky light colored clay, baked hard by the drought; we would call it pipe clay, with considerable vegetable matter in it, and by our tests it is destitute of lime. We would advise deep and thorough cultivation, so as far as possible to comminute the lumps and clods; sow it in rye or oats this autumn, and spread 25 bushels of lime, shell lime would be best—next spring plough in the green crop, and harrow well; sow in oats with three hundred pounds of Andrew Coe's Super-Phosphate or Turner's Excelsior; in autumn plow under the stubble, harrow fine, and sow wheat and timothy, with five bushels of finely ground bones, or 200 of Missouri bone meal. The probability will be that the wheat crop will return all outlay, and leave the land in fine condition for the production of heavy crops of timothy for years. One gallon of clover seed might with profit be sown among the wheat in the spring. But Mr. C. must be sure that the ground be well drained. Draining, proper cultivation, and high manuring, will reclaim any soil, even pipe clay soil, if it has any vegetable matter intermixed with it originally.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE FAIR OF THE CAROLINAS will be held in Charlotte, N. C., commencing Tuesday, October 22d, and continue five days. \$10,000 are offered in premiums.

A GENTLE REMINDER.

With the July and August numbers of the *Maryland Farmer* we sent out bills to a few friends who are in arrears for subscription, with the request that they would promptly remit the small amount due us. Our "Re-organization" has been attended with considerable additional expense, which makes it more necessary that the little balances should be harvested without delay. Believing it is but neglect on the part of our friends, we again urge them to aid in increase of our exchequer, which will further enable us to make the *Maryland Farmer*—as an agricultural standard—second to none in the country. The amounts can be sent through the mail at our risk, and without any fear of giving offence.—Selah!

PLOWDEN'S SEEDLING PEACH.

As there seems to be much interest manifested about this fruit, and expressions of a contrariety of opinion as to whether or not it be *Hale's Early*, we think we can settle the question. We knew Col. Plowden in his lifetime intimately, and before we ever heard of *Hale's Early Peach*, he told us that he had originated accidentally a very fine early peach, which he considered an entirely distinct sort. It grew from the stone. His experience had taught him that peaches grown from the stone or pits were longer lived and healthier, and almost as invariably true to the kind planted as were those budded or grafted, although it required a longer period for them to come into bearing. He said sometimes there would be a failure as to the character of the fruit, some few would be unlike and worthless, some slightly different, and some superior, to the fruit, the stones of which had been planted, and that not unfrequently a new variety would make its appearance, as in this case, and he finding it very early and of good size and flavor, had grown it. He was an extensive grower of peaches in Charles county, Md., and had large experience, though he did not profess to be learned in pomology. He was an intelligent, educated and observant gentleman. We have never compared the leaves, wood or fruit of these two sorts—we never owned a Plowden, but did buy and grow a hundred of the *Hale* to our regret, as they were small, rotted badly, and in a word, worthless, and not as early as a small white peach we purchased many years ago, called *Early Catherine*, we think—it was the size of a medium apricot, thin skin and white, open stone. The *Plowden Peach* we refer to was certainly known in Maryland before *Hale's Early* was ever introduced to peach growers in this section. When we give our experience of the *Hale* we wish to say that our case might have

been an exception, from some cause, for we have heard it highly spoken of by others, and we are ashamed to say it, we got our *Hales* (?) from a tree-peddler. It was our first offence, and shall be our last.

INFLATED LOBELIA.

Mr. L., of Harford county, left at our office a weed, for name and description, and with a hope that we could tell how it can be got rid of, as it is becoming a pest in his section. It is a species of *Lobelia*, with the common names of Indian Tobacco, Blue Devil, Eye-bright. It is found from Canada to South Carolina. The beautiful Cardinal Flower is another species of this plant. Dr. Darlington, in his "Weeds and Useful Plants," after giving a full description and illustration, observes: "This is an acrid plant—possessing emetic, cathartic and narcotic properties; and is somewhat notorious for the use made of it by a tribe of reckless modern Empirics. It is frequent in our pastures in the latter part of summer—and has been suspected of causing the ptyalism or slobbering of horses, so often observable at this season. I cannot, however, help doubting the correctness of this opinion, for the horse is a dainty animal in the selection of his food."

As to its eradication, we would advise deep and thorough plowing, with frequent use of the smoothing harrow, gathering the roots and burning them; pulling up the plants in a moist time, or a heavy application of salt. It has a large tap root and branches, and if not arrested in time, will be as difficult to destroy as Canada thistle. The prompt destruction of these pests on their first appearance is the source oftentimes of great after trouble and vexation to the farmer.

Our Correspondents.—The "*Dunk Papers*" in this issue will well repay a thoughtful perusal, as it ably vindicates "book farming" in a rich vein of humor, though somewhat "sarkastical." It cannot fail to brush away the cobwebs from the brain of the "practical old foggy," after a tiresome day's labor in the burning heat we have had this month, (August,) as he reads the scathing blowing up of both the self-styled "practical," and the extravagant theories of visionary experimentalists.

Thanks to "*Wicomico*," who will, if she continues her efforts, become as popular with the readers of the *Maryland Farmer* as *Daisy Eyebright* is to the readers of the *Country Gentleman*, or the "*Funny Fern*" of *N. Y. Ledger*. So mote it be!

We are happy to say that our list of new contributors is increasing in numbers and strength in due proportion to our rapidly swelling list of subscribers and advertisers, for all which we are as grateful as rejoiced.

The Southern Maryland and District of Columbia Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

This Association was fully organized on the 20th of July, by the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws, and the election of officers. We understand its grounds will be selected at Huntington, or somewhere in its neighborhood on the line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in Prince George's county. There can be no doubt that this projective enterprise will prove highly remunerative to the stockholders, and become a great public benefit as well as popular resort for the thousands of denizens of the cities of Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis, it being of easy access by rail from each of those cities. It is designed to be upon the plan of the St. Louis Association, which is the most flourishing of this class of agricultural societies in the United States. There is already some seven or eight thousand dollars of stock subscribed, and as soon as a sufficient amount be taken, the grounds will be purchased and laid off, and the stockholders will select men of enlarged experience, capital and enterprise to manage its interests upon a plan most profitable to the stockholders, and acceptable to the public. The present officers are unobjectionable, and competent for its organization and setting it going on a fair footing, but would be perhaps unwilling to continue its management after it got into full operation, because of their inability to devote the time that would be required, and their want of practical knowledge of the details of conducting such an institution on so gigantic a scale as it is likely it will reach in a few years; backed up, as it will be, by the merchant princes of Baltimore, the distinguished men of Washington, and the great turfmen and stockmen of the Union, with the alliance of that portion of the great mechanical and manufacturing interest which is in close relationship with agricultural pursuits.

This institution being so important will be fostered by the whole agricultural population of the southern portion of Maryland, and be patronized by all those who desire to encourage the good and beautiful products of rural skill, industry and science, and who could meet together to cheer, stimulate and reward the labors of the farmer, who at last feeds all, clothes all, and possesses the rock on which the nation itself is built. This Association, we are informed, designs to purchase two hundred or more acres of land, and have it artistically improved and laid out by an educated landscape gardener and topographer, so that while it is made subservient to the purposes of the Society, it will be at the same time a beautiful park and pleasure ground for the enjoyment of the people of Hunting-

ton, and a pleasant rural retreat for the picnic parties, philanthropic societies, and other associations of the cities of the District of Columbia, Baltimore and Annapolis, as also for transient visitors, who occasionally fly from their places of business to some quiet country spot, to recreate and recruit their over-tasked energies. We sincerely wish it success, and feel assured that a little active exertion will secure its being soon placed on so firm a basis that the most sanguine hopes of its projectors will be fulfilled. Col. W. W. W. Bowie is the President, Baltimore; B. M. Plumb is Corresponding Secretary, Washington; Robert Bowie, Agent and Superintendent, Collington, Md.

GLENN-VILLE,

A way-side station of the B. & P. R. R.—laid off in lots and squares and streets for a future village, and soon to become so, if the enterprise and energy of the owner, E. B. DuVal, Esq., can accomplish it. We see no reason but that his fondest expectations will soon be realized. It is in a remarkably fine and healthy region, adapted to market gardens and fruits; finer specimens of the latter in the way of pears and peaches, (which Mr. DuVal kindly presented us,) are not to be had in Baltimore. Glenn-Ville takes its name from that whole-souled gentleman, John Glenn, Esq., of Baltimore city. Many cottages will be erected there this autumn and next spring, by citizens of Washington, who wish to enjoy rural life mingled with town business. To accomplish this desirable end they will only incur a small expense to ride a few miles in the luxurious cars of the B. & P. R. R.—Mr. DuVal has a large peach orchard of superior fruit, just coming in bearing, a short distance from this embryo village, and near his mansion—*Marietta*—where to his friends and strangers he dispenses a hospitality worthy of the renown which has ever characterized the people of Prince George's.

Great Sale of Horses in England.—A short time since the Middle Park Stud, the gigantic and celebrated breeding establishment of the late Mr. Blenkiron, was broken up, and the animals were sold at auction. They consisted of 13 stallions, 197 brood mares and 129 foals, in all 339 head, and the aggregate sales amounted to five hundred and twelve thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars in gold, or an average per head of \$1,512!! *Blair Athol* sold for \$60,000, and a famous mare, *Seclusion*, brought \$12,500 in gold. The National Stud Company was the chief purchasers. But for it, the foreign demand would have taken most of these valuable horses, and thus England would have sustained a great loss in parting with such valuable animals, representing the strains of the best racing blood in the world.

THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

We learn from the proper source that the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1871, will be issued soon, being some months in advance of usual time of publication. It no doubt will be an interesting volume. One of its chief features will be a digest of the report of the ninth census, with the addition of material facts from sources attainable only through the correspondence of the Agricultural Department. Of agricultural productions of 1871, the report says:

The agricultural production of 1871 has been less, both in quantity and value, than that of 1870. The heaviest decline in production is seen in corn, which fails to reach the quantity of the previous year by one hundred millions of bushels, while it exceeds that produced in 1869 by a difference still greater. The amount of wheat harvested has apparently come very near the product of 1870; the quantity of oats grown slightly surpasses that of the previous year; and barley, rye and buckwheat, always presenting moderate figures, differ in their aggregate of the two years by very slight degrees. The difference in the quantity of cereals is therefore mainly due to the reduction in the yield of corn, which showed, relatively, a decrease of 9 per cent., yet actually leaving more than an average crop. The total quantity of cereals, as estimated, was fully sixteen hundred and a quarter millions in 1870; and, in 1871, fifteen hundred and a quarter; their values, respectively, in round numbers, one thousand millions of dollars, and nine hundred millions. As compared with other grain-producing countries, ours now stands abreast with Russia, in some years slightly ahead, while the two together equal, in cereal production, all the countries in Europe west of Russia.

The area in cereals, so far as we have been able to determine it without the help of the census—a singular omission in the national enumeration to which this Department in vain called the attention of the law-makers prior to the census of 1870—was sixty-four millions of acres last year, and sixty-nine in 1870. More than half of this total area, as also a larger proportion of the aggregate value, is attributed to the maize crop, which is, and must be, for many years, the principal cereal crop of the country.

It will give many other important statistics and essays, upon subjects of deep interest to farmers, legislators, and all who desire to aid agricultural progress.

Sales of Improved Stock.—We hear that Gov. O. Bowie has reduced his herd of fine Devons, by recent sales of some twenty odd head of young bulls and heifers at satisfactory prices. He has also parted with his entire flock of Southdown sheep. It will be recollected that it was from this flock the Commissioners of Druid Hill Park procured those beautiful specimens of this breed which give pastoral beauty to the green slopes of that lovely retreat.

Specimens of Rye and Oats.—One of our chief contributors brought to us a fine specimen of Norway oats, nearly five feet high, and heavily headed. His crop of nine acres in this peculiarly unfavorable season yielded an average of twenty-five bushels standard weight per acre; others in his vicinity failed, one gentleman only had forty bushels from eight acres, and the average of the neighborhood not over ten bushels. He sowed only fifteen bushels on the lot of nine acres, and thinks twenty would have yielded a better crop. This crop is attributable to draining, cleaning, deep and thorough cultivation, with the application of three hundred pounds of home-made phosphates. This gentleman goes in for high pressure farming, and feels that he reaps his reward. The specimen of rye was to show how extensively this grain tillers in certain circumstances. There were forty-five stalks from one grain, most of the stalks were large. The oat stems were uncommonly large and strong. Farmers, bring on your samples of grain, grown under the old system of farming, and compare notes of products, expenses of crop, and see how the balance sheet stands. This is the only test.

The American Farmer.—The August number of this old agricultural journal came promptly to hand on the first of the month. In its present hands it maintains the high reputation it enjoyed in the olden times, when it was one of the few journals in the country devoted exclusively to agriculture and its several departments. The present new series is ably conducted by Messrs. Samuel Sands & Son, and we cordially commend it to the public.

LUCERNE—ORCHARD GRASS.—Lucerne is mentioned as the favorite soiling crops, says the *Tribune*, of Walcott & Campbell, the well-known breeders, and they say they have taken four cuttings of it from the same ground the same year, averaging over two feet growth to a crop, or nine feet for the season. It requires a deep-dry and loose soil, well manured. T. D. Curtis reports that Harris Lewis prefers orchard grass for this purpose. His soil, though thoroughly drained, would not grow lucern or clover so well. He says he has cut 90 inches of growth of orchard grass in a single season. There is nothing that cattle like better. He does not think it pays him to grow sowed corn for soiling purposes, and, from experiments made, is of the opinion that most farmers could do better than to grow it. Yet, if they cannot grow any of the other soiling crops to advantage, he would by all means advise them to grow corn.

SALE OF JERSEYS.—Mr. Joseph H. Rieman, Dumbarton Farm, Baltimore, has sold to Col. Turley, of Tennessee, the Jersey bull "Sir Davy," (84) and three heifers—also the yearling colt out of imported Arabian, mare Saieda, by Gov. Bowie's Stonewall Jackson.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We are indebted to the Officers of the *Wisconsin State Agricultural Society* for a complimentary invitation to attend its 19th Annual Meeting at Milwaukee, on September 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, 1872. We shall be most happy to accept, if our engagements at that time will permit us, as we are desirous to see Western agriculture, and become acquainted with the energetic people of the flourishing young State of Wisconsin.

We received from the publisher, Henry Carey Baird, Philadelphia, "*The School of Chemical Manures, or Elementary Principles in the Use of Fertilizing Agents*," from the French of M. George Ville, by A. A. Fesquet, Chemist. Price \$1.25—sent by mail free of postage. It is neatly printed and handsomely illustrated, showing the effects on grain of no manure, mineral manure without nitrogenized matter, nitrogenized manure without minerals, and the complete manure, that is, the two manures properly apportioned and mixed. The effects of the latter is wonderful. We commend this little work to our readers.—*Ville* stands as high in France as Baron Liebig does in Germany.

TRANSATLANTIC.—We are indebted to the publisher, G. W. Hammersley, Philadelphia, for the July and August numbers, being the first and second numbers of the sixth volume of this excellent monthly; made up, as its title indicates, from selections of the best articles in the European journals. The selections seem to be culled with great care and judgment, and the typography reflects credit on the publisher. It will be found highly interesting to the mass of readers, who like an elevated standard of literature, and we take pleasure in giving it our commendation.

VIRGINIA RURALIST.—The third number of the *Virginia Ruralist* is at hand, and we are pleased to see this new comer in the field, wearing so pleasant a face, and filled with such substantial mental ailments. It is devoted to General Literature, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy. J. S. Trout, Editor and Proprietor, Woodstock, Virginia. We wish it every success.

HANOVER ON THE LAW OF HORSES.—We return thanks to the publishers, Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati, for the above very valuable work. The title page fully discloses the object and scope of the book—"A Practical Treatise on the Law of Horses," embracing the Law of Bargain, Sale, and Warranty of Horses and other Live Stock; the Rule as to Unsoundness and Vice, and the Responsibility of Livery, Auction and Sale Stables, Inn-Keepers, Veterinary Surgeons and Farriers. By M. D. Hanover. 1 Vol. \$3.50.

This work is perhaps the most practical and careful compilation of the law and decisions on these subjects that is extant, and it should be in the possession of every man who deals at all in live stock, as it will, we are sure, find its way to every lawyer's library. Horse-trading and buying and selling, are fruitful sources of litigation, which might often be avoided if both buyer and seller were more conversant with the ruling of the law in such cases.—Here, then, is the fount from which enlightenment will flow, if farmers and horsemen desire to obtain it.

THE RATIONAL MANUFACTURE OF AMERICAN WINES.—Published by Oesterreicher & Co. This work is a practical and scientific treatise of 200 pages, fully illustrated, upon the different wine grapes of this country, their cultivation, diseases, &c.; the preparation of wine; imitation of different sorts of wine by compounding; different recipes and apparatus; insects injurious to grapevines, and how to destroy them—and the latest improvements in the

manufacture of wine. It is minute in detail, and appears to be a valuable aid to all who are engaged in the making of wine, either on a large or small scale, as it is the joint labor of practical vinegrowers, wine makers and scientific chemists.

NECTARINES.—Mr. Gullifull, near Annapolis, brought to our office on the 12th ult. some nectarines unripe, but they were larger and more perfect than any we ever remember to have seen. The dry, hot season has suited this fruit, and when they mature and ripen this month, they will command a higher price than peaches. They are esteemed by most persons superior to the apricot. Our climate is yearly becoming more favorable to the production of this thin-skinned fruit, which in a rainy season exudes a gum when punctured by insects, and the fruit becomes worthless. Our fruit-growers no doubt will in the future pay more attention to its production.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

HAYDENSVILLE, OHIO, Aug. 11, 1872.

To the Editors of the *Maryland Farmer*:

Last week I left Washington for a trip to this part of Ohio, on business for the "Patrons of Husbandry," and had a pleasant run over the Baltimore road to the Ohio river at Parkersburg, where we crossed that river on a magnificent iron bridge. The crops and farms all along the route present the appearance of having suffered badly from the long drouth, until we reached the valley of the Little Kanawha, down the valley of which we ran till we reached its confluence with the Ohio at Parkersburg, a thriving iron and oil town; all the way there is a greater destitution of fruit than is necessary or desirable, particularly of apples and grapes, which can be raised much more plentifully; there is plenty of splendid timber, and there seems to be a large business done in the manufacture of staves, puncheons, shooks, &c., at the little hamlets stuck along in the mountain-sides and valleys, particularly in the course of Cheat river; and in many places the hill-slopes were bright with little fields of white buckwheat, which smacks with the delicious prospect of pan-cakes and honey next winter. After leaving this point, and in passing up the famous valley of the Hocking river, in Ohio, we everywhere noticed the monster fields of heavy corn, eight, ten and twelve feet high, interspersed with large orchards and oceans of apples. All around this smart little village of Haydensville the corn-fields are heavy, and the orchards well fruited in the valley, while the rugged hills supply immense treasures of iron and coal. Here, and at Logan, County-Seat of Hocking county, I have organized numbers of the Patrons of Husbandry, and the farmers already reap benefits from it, and the Order is fast becoming popular.

DEPUTY.

In Switzerland a law is proposed making it unlawful for any one under fourteen to smoke tobacco.

IMPROVED STOCK.

In buying improved stock, if possible, go and make your own selections. If you live too far away, write the persons of whom you buy, what kind of sows you want to breed to, and describe as fully as possible, the color, form, &c., of the boar or sow you wish. In this way you will be much more likely to get the kind of hog best suited to your wants. For instance: if you wish a boar to breed to sows of common or mongrel stock, give, the best you can, the idea or points you most desire—Any thoroughbred boar will greatly improve the common stock, but some animals are better than others for that purpose, even of the same breed. For breeding grades for fattening you want a larger and coarser hog, and need not be so particular as to style, so he has a good constitution, great fattening qualities and early maturity, sound in body and limb, reasonably symmetrical and of thorough breeding. For breeding thoroughbreds, get the best possible. A few dollars on a good pig is nothing compared to perfection of form, sound health, good style, fine action and early maturity.

One idea of a first class boar is as follows: For a boar, short, broad head, wide between the eyes, fine muzzle, lively eyes, silky, drooping ears, soft mellow skin, long, fine and abundant hair, short, well knit straight legs, standing well on his feet, heavy jowl and quarters, high, arching and full neck, well developed sexual organs, long, full and yet compactly built body, broad loin, full stifle, flanking well down on the leg, and of a strong masculine appearance.

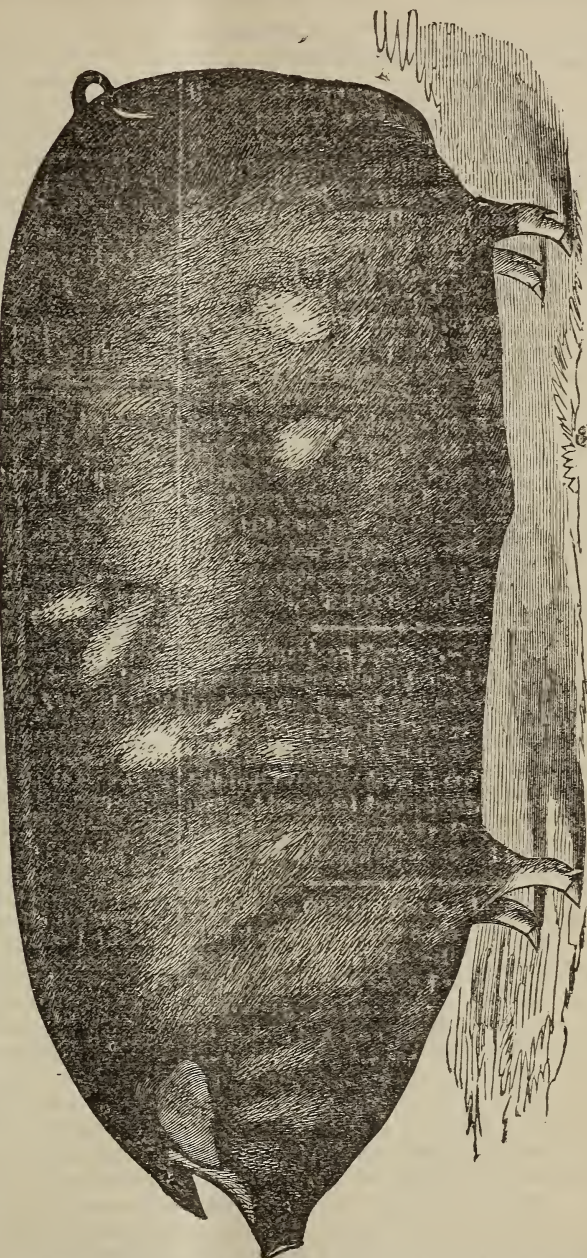
The sow should have a nice fine head and ear, full and heavy jowl, good length, more depth of body than the boar, broad, strong loin, large, full ham, mellow skin, long, fine and abundant hair, rather longer in the leg than the boar, and a large number of teats, and of a family noted for fertility, great vigor and good sucklers.

This is the form of boar and sow recommended by most of the careful and prominent breeders, and one which we endorse, although we have bred large, coarse boars to small, fine, compact sows, with very favorable results.—*Shepard and Alexander's Swine and Swine Breeding.*

LICE.—These pests can be easily and quickly destroyed by using coal oil, which not only kills the lice but destroys the nits or eggs.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN, (sometimes called *Blind Stagers*), is not unfrequent in pigs, especially when suddenly changed to rich, abundant food, or exposed to stormy, changeable weather. At first the animal appears dull, stupid and disinclined to move. The eyes become red and inflamed, the bowels constipated, the pulse hard and quick. In a short time, if not relieved, the animal runs wildly about, usually in a circle, seems blind, will run against objects, the breathing becomes rapid and laborious.

Treatment.—Give at once a teaspoonful of calomel, cut



This cut represents the Poland-China Boar, Jim Crow, at 18 months, winner of first prize in his class, at National Hog Show, Chicago, Illinois State Fair and St. Louis Fair, and Sweepstakes of Poland-China, at Canton, Ill., and Sweepstakes any age or breed, at Illinois State Fair 1871. Bred and owned by Shepard & Alexander, Charleston, Ill.

a slit in the skin on the head above the eyes, cut it clear to the skull. Into this cut put salt and pepper to get up a counter-irritation. If this does not succeed, make a liniment as follows: Take a four ounce vial, into it put one ounce spirits turpentine, one ounce capsicum, one ounce aqua ammonia, half ounce tincture of arnica, quarter ounce chloroform; shake well before using, and rub the head of patient around upper part of head, between the base and around the ears. If the above is done promptly cure is almost certain.

For the Maryland Farmer.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND—NATURE'S METHOD --WHAT PLANTS SHALL WE USE?

To make crops grow, so far as planting and cultivating are concerned, to harvest and prepare crops for market, are easy matters, I suppose, compared with the improvement of the soil, or maintaining a high state of fertility. The latter lies at the very foundation indeed of success, yet it always seems, for the present, so short-sighted are we, of secondary importance. The aim is, year by year, the present crop; our interest centres in that, and for its sake we are willing to sacrifice in a measure that which does not so immediately concern us.—For this reason, and because of the ruin to our lands that has come of it, it seems necessary to keep the subject of the restoration and preservation of the soil continually in mind, and to make a study of the cheapest and most economical methods of effecting this.

We find much written therefore in the journals, as there should be, on this subject, and we do not doubt that our ambitious young farmers especially are making it a matter of careful study. There is nothing in country life, we believe, that so takes the heart out of an enterprising young man, and so surely disgusts him with farming, as the necessity of working poor land.

Nature's Method.

A well written article in a Northern weekly treats of three modes of improvement. Of these he says, first: one way of improving land is by neglecting to cultivate it—by allowing vegetable growth to mature from year to year, and to decay where the plants grow. This is Nature's own process for rendering barren soils fertile, and rich ground still more productive. It is here where the eminent value of noxious weeds for agricultural purposes is disclosed, &c. We hear a good deal said of "Nature's own process" in the papers, and may no doubt take useful hints, but may not rely on Nature for direction. We are furnished in Nature with materials to work with, but our own intelligence taught from various sources is a safer guide. As to this point, one of the worst things we can do with land that we would improve is "neglecting to cultivate it." Soil, it is true, has been formed by accumulation of vegetable matter upon the surface, but it has been, we must bear in mind, a very slow process; we can hardly afford, in this age of haste, to imitate Nature. Vegetable matter is what our poor fields mainly want, but they want it quickly, and they want it without the accumulation with it of the seeds of noxious weeds. We must not neglect to cultivate therefore. We must make to grow by cultivation such plants as answer best the

purpose, and we get not only a growth that suits us better than Nature's, but we employ a double agency at the same time; that is, the vegetation and the cultivation. No one can doubt that land, especially clay land, may be almost indefinitely improved by good ploughing alone—the breaking up and exposure to the atmosphere of the particles of soil. The vegetable matter helps this process, while it furnishes organic material for the nourishment of plants. A sensible man who goes diligently to work, will distance dame Nature in the work of improvement.

What Plants Must We Use?

Chiefly clover. This we said last month, but as the types made a little confusion of it, let me repeat a few lines just here: We should keep close to this thought, that the first great want of our Maryland agriculture is more and more, and always increasing manure; and of all manures, that which is most easily obtained, and most available, and therefore cheapest, is *clover*. Just to the extent that we would make the substantial, permanent and ever-increasing improvement of our land the leading thought of our practice, must we adapt our cultivation to the increase of the clover crop.

But what else? There are thousands of poor acres where clover seed would be only thrown away; what must we do for these without manure enough to start the clover? What shall we do that we may take a departure below the point where clover may avail us? Will rye, or oats, or buckwheat, or field peas or broadcast corn do? All these will grow where clover will not, and surely add vegetable matter to the soil. Of the great value of peas there is no doubt at all. There is the objection to them that a sufficiency of seed added to the cost of preparing ground for sowing, makes them somewhat costly. The value of neither oats nor buckwheat for the purpose has seemed sufficiently marked to attract much notice.

We have sown rye for this purpose, and with good success apparently; having ploughed under when in bloom a crop of rye that hid the mules which turned it down, and made an excellent crop of tobacco on the ground. We find it spoken of as a fertilizer in an article in the *New York World*, but not so definitely as is desirable. That it can be made a most useful adjunct to the improvement of poor lands by sowing it largely as food for sheep we have no doubt. The article named says: Rye will grow and often yield largely on a soil containing not more than one and a quarter per cent. of organic matter. It affords a fine winter pasture for stock. It should be sown in the fall as soon as the sun's heat has so moderated as not to kill the young plants. After rye has advanced in age and growth sufficiently to stool out, it is not damaged

by the trampling of a reasonable amount of stock. Grazing it to a reasonable extent in winter and early spring is said rather to increase than to diminish the yield. If it is not desired by the farmer to reap and thresh out his whole crop of rye, hogs and cattle are greatly benefitted if turned in upon it. The rye straw, if allowed to remain upon the ground, shades it, thus aiding in the fertilization by preventing evaporation, and the escape of valuable gases from the soil. Besides this, the straw makes a positively large addition to the organic matter in the soil. It also improves its physical properties. Turned under it renders the ground pulverizable, and permeable to the roots of plants and to the rain. A luxuriant rye-patch bears winter grazing with less injury to the soil than any other crop we are acquainted with.

We have seen a statement lately that a crop of rye, cut off for feeding when in full bloom, made a second growth that produced a good yield of seed, and a year ago we saw what seemed an unusually fine growth that had been grazed very closely as late as the 20th of April.

There are what may be classed as weeds, as springing spontaneously on a great deal of our poor land, several plants, that are as susceptible as clover to the action of plaster, and that are worthy of consideration in the early stages of improvement. The partridge pea, as it is mostly called, or Magothy-bay bean, is well known in some sections, and highly prized for its improving qualities; and the bird-foot or woolly-head clover, if allowed to come after corn on light land, makes a close and valuable covering.

What young farmers need to be especially warned against in this connection is the ruinous practice of close grazing, which consumes every mouthful of vegetation that the ground affords. There are to-day, many fields in Maryland that were well covered with clover in May, where the dust now flies under every step a horse takes over them.—How can we expect improvement under such treatment? When will we learn that we must make separate provision for the stock that we need on the farm, if we would apply the clover to its legitimate purpose of covering and enriching the soil?

MARYLANDER.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS.—The Department of Agriculture has commenced the distribution of several superior varieties of fall wheat to all the States and Territories adapted to its growth. This distribution will be completed during the current month, thus giving ample time for sowing in all the localities where winter wheat is cultivated. A large distribution of rye will soon follow. The department has made arrangements for an early distribution of vegetable and grass seeds to its correspondents and others in the South.

GRAPE GROWING, &c., IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The following statement in relation to fruit culture in North Carolina, we copy from the *Sentinel* of Winston, N. C., as an evidence of the Old North State's capacity for fruit raising. It says:

"S. T. Mickey, Esq., of Salem, 1869, commenced setting out a vineyard near town, and last year from 1800 vines he manufactured 600 gallons of superior wine. This wine has been tested by connoisseurs, North and South, and has been pronounced superior to any of the foreign wines, and he is now filling orders from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and other cities. It is fine and unadulterated, and has borne the severest test of the chemists.

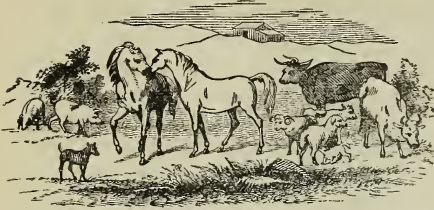
This year Mr. Mickey has 4000 bearing vines, and will make about 2500 gallons. He will also make 150 gallons of raspberry wine from vines planted last year. He also grows the improved blackberries and is now engaged in manufacturing blackberry wine. His orchard comprises the best variety of apples and peaches, and he will gather 500 bushels of the finest quality of peaches. This is a move in the right direction for the improvement and development of our country, and we hope to see Mr. Mickey's example followed by others.—Our climate and soil are well adapted to grape growing."

HOW THEY FARM IN ARIZONA.—A New York *Tribune* correspondent thus repeats what "the Judge" told him about farming in Arizona:

"Do you know how they carry on agriculture down there?" asked the Judge; "there was a fellow who hired himself out as a farm hand in Arizona, and the first day his master told him to cut some wood. So he asked for an axe, but the farmer said, 'No, we don't cut wood with an axe here,' and gave him a sledge-hammer to knock and break off the mesquit which they burn down there. The next day John was ordered to cut some hay, and was looking about for a scythe, when his master said, 'We don't cut hay with a scythe down here,' and gave him a hoe to cut down the woody stalks, with which they swindled the horses there for hay. The third morning the farmer called his man to come out and plant corn. John looked for a hoe, but his master said, 'We don't plant corn with a hoe out here,' and gave him a crowbar with which to punch holes in the ground wherein to drop corn, and John left the country in disgust at that kind of farm work."

INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.—The Legislature having passed a very sweeping law for the protection of birds in this county, says the *Maryland Republican*, of Annapolis, Anne Arundel county, Md., a young farmer near that city thinks the crow ought to be added, as that bird of ill-repute has saved for him thirty thousand tobacco plants by the destruction of worms. He further states that soaking the kernels of corn in gas-tar will prevent the crow from scratching the hill.

Live Stock Register.



LIVE STOCK SALES.

From an account of Mr. Alexander's Sale in *Turf, Field and Farm*, we give the following:

"The East was largely represented, and the results were better than at any of the previous Woodburn Sales—a fact which it gives us much pleasure to record. Col. Bruce writes that "a finer lot of youngsters—21 colts and 22 fillies (thoroughbreds) have never been placed under the hammer in this country." As to prices, we have the following summary:

	Average.	Total.
21 thorough-bred colts.....	\$945.50	\$19,855
22 " fillies.....	731.33	16,090
43 thorough-bred yearlings.....	\$835.70	\$36,945
22 other stock.....	261 00	5,740
Total of Sale,		\$41,685

The following are some of the largest prices made: Bay filly by Lexington out of Banner, to George Rice, \$2,530; two colts by Lexington, and one filly by imp. Australian, at \$2,025 each; one colt by imp. Australian at \$1,950, and by Planet at \$1,925; one each by Lexington and imp. Australian at \$1,300. The averages on each of the sires were as follow, as compared with Mr. Alexander's Sale last year:

	1871.	1872.
Lexington,.....6 foals, \$1.145		9 foals, \$1.247
Imp. Australian,.....19 do. 387		10 do. 1,677
Planet,.....13 do. 402		11 do. 774
Asteroid,.....7 do. 313		12 do. 514

A MARVEL OF SPEED—*Joe Elliott's Time*.—The following is the certificate (dated Boston, July 30th, 1872,) of the timers who witnessed the wonderful feat of trotting a mile, at the Mystic Park, in 2.15½—the fastest time on record—by Mr. Bonner's horse Joe Elliott:

"We the undersigned hereby certify that we timed Joe Elliott, on June 29th, 1872, when he trotted on Mystic Park one mile in 2 15½, some of us making it less, and we are ready, whenever called upon to do so, to substantiate this statement by affidavit. Mr. Jacobs, the superintendent of the course, made it 2.14¾; Mr. Hayes made it 2.15; Mr. Chase made

it 2.15½, and Mr. Morris and Mr. Worcester made it 2.15½."

Signed by L. C. Chase, Leon Morris, Chas. S. Jacobs, Jr., Stephen Hayes and Albert W. Worcester.

MORE AMERICAN CATTLE FOR ENGLAND.—Mr. A. J. Alexander, of Woodburn Stud Farm, Woodford County, Ky., has sold two short-horn heifers of the Dutchess variety, to an English purchaser, for \$13,000. They are to be shipped, together with other American stock, to England per steamer.

From the *Country Gentleman* we take the following:

AMENDED SUMMARY OF COL. KING'S SALE.

28 cows and heifers, average,	\$612.50	\$17,150
12 bulls and b. calves, do.	473 00	5,675
40 head,	do. \$570.62	\$22,825

COUNTY FAIRS IN MARYLAND 1872.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SOCIETY OF ALLEGANY COUNTY AND WEST VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA will hold its Fourth Annual Fair, at Cumberland, Md., on October 1, 2, 3 and 4th, 1872. The elegant Fair grounds of this society are located conveniently to the city, and offer every convenience to exhibitors of Stock, Implements, Farm Products, Household Articles, &c., &c.

THE KENT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold its Annual Fair at Hawkins' Park, near Hainesville, Kent Co., Md., on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17th and 18th. They invite competition from every county. The Hawkins' Park Trotting Association will hold a Horse Fair at the Park, adjoining the show grounds on the same day. Judging from the deep interest felt in old Kent and adjoining counties, a highly creditable affair may be anticipated.

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY holds its Fifteenth Annual Exhibition, at Hagerstown, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th of October next. Address A. P. Wilmer, Secretary, Hagerstown, Md.

THE CARROLL COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—The Annual Fair of the Carroll County Agricultural Society will be held at Westminster on the 30th of September, and continue from that day until the following Saturday night. The enclosed grounds comprise some thirty acres of land, with stabling sufficient to accommodate 500 head of stock. The race track is elliptical in form, half a mile in length, and the greatest grade does not exceed one foot to the 100 feet.

TO ADVERTISERS.—THE MARYLAND FARMER with a large and increasing circulation throughout the country, offers to business men peculiar advantages as a medium of advertising.

The Poultry House.

CURES FOR CHICKEN CHOLERA.

MR W. H. FEROR, Mechanicstown, Md., sends to the *Poultry Bulletin*, the following cure for chicken cholera, which, he says has been of great service in his section:

"Two oz. alum, two oz. resin, two oz. copperas, two oz. lac sulphur, two oz. cayenne pepper; pulverize, then mix three tablespoonful of the powder with one quart corn meal, and dampen for use. This quantity is sufficient for twelve fowls, and may be used either as a preventive or cure. For the first it should be given once or twice a week."

ANOTHER CURE.

Benjamin Sheppard, Cumberland County, N. J., says he has great success in checking chicken cholera, by administering a strong decoction of black-oak bark. It was given to the fowls by moistening their food with it, and restraining them from other diet.

STILL ANOTHER.

Take fat bacon and cut in pills the size of a marble, roll in dry corn meal, and give about three or four of the fat bacon pills; take ground ginger and make into dough, and give three or four ginger pills—then the fat bacon pills, and the ginger, until you think the fowl has had enough. Do this two or three days and keep them from water (you can give water, but not too much) Notice the chickens in the morning when they are fed, and if they do not eat, the disease is coming on: then commence feeding as per above recipe.

Another.—Give three or four teaspoonfuls of strong alum water to any fowl noticed to be drooping, and repeat the dose the sixth day. Also, mix strong alum water with the feed for two or three days, and then once a week afterwards. Take a tablespoonful of finely pulverized alum, make a thin paste by mixing this with flour and water, and force the fowl to swallow some of the mixture. Also mix alum with their feed once a day.

LIME WATER FOR FOWLS.—Lime water as an occasional drink for fowls is said to be a preventive of many diseases and assists the formation of bone and eggs. It should be prepared as follows: Pour over quick lime some water, and when the lime is slackened and settled, draw the clear water off, which can be kept for a considerable time.

An artesian well in Lincoln, Nebraska, is so magnetic that it will draw a tin cup toward it. That's nothing, for a small black bottle will often draw a whole crowd towards it.

The Dairy.

ARE SHALLOW OR DEEP PANS BEST TO RAISE CREAM?

This question was propounded to us last month, and we gave it as our experience, limited and not derived from very accurate experiments, that medium depth of vessels, say eight inches, were best. Since then we found an article in one of our exchanges which fully supported our views, only a deeper vessel than eight inches was better. If we remember right, Mr. Waring, in some of his *Ogden Farm Papers*, advocates deep pans as raising more cream, and easier skimmed. At one time the reverse opinion was entertained by dairymen. It would be well if some of those engaged in butter-making would experiment, and give to the public through our columns the results. A friend in Frederick county promises to make accurate experiments in this matter, and report his conclusions.

As appropriate to this subject we subjoin the following from the *Farmer's Journal* of Lexington, Kentucky.

LARGE MILK PANS.—The proper depth of milk pans, in order to insure the greatest possible quantity of pure milk, is a subject engaging the attention of our agricultural cotemporaries. There has been a considerable amount of discussion already, and more to follow. For the purpose of giving the disputants an opportunity of knowing how milk pans are done up in Chester county, Pa., we copy the following from the *Jeffersonian* of West Chester:

"Our attention was called a few days ago while passing on Market street, to four large tin pans lying on the pavement. Upon inquiry of Mr. F. we were informed they were made for milk pans, to be used in the dairy of Mr. Enos Barnard, near Roe Dun, in this county. They each measured 12 feet in length and 4 feet in width, and were about six inches in depth. They were double bottomed, with a vacuum of about one inch between, which space was divided into four apartments by apartments by partitions running lengthwise, and were so constructed to allow the water to pass up and down the length of the pan, thus keeping the milk cool or warm at the option of those having it in charge. The four pans had capacity sufficient for containing the milk of one hundred cows, which number we understand Mr. Barnard keeps. It is said by those who have tried this new kind of pan, that a much greater amount of cream is obtained from the same quantity of milk, besides obviating considerable trouble and labor. When the cream is skimmed from the surface, the milk is drawn off at the bottom of the pans into buckets or whatever other vessel is selected.

In some parts of Virginia peanuts are, next to corn, the standard crop, and are very profitable. With good cultivation, they yield from fifty to one hundred bushels per acre, and average about two dollars per bushel.

THE DROUGHT—COB-MEAL, Etc.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer :

The benefit arising from sub-soiling, and keeping the crust broken to promote increased crops, and a remedy against drought, has been fully discussed in previous numbers of the *Maryland Farmer* ; therefore further remarks on the subject appear to be superfluous. I planted on the 15th of last July a family supply of winter cabbage. To insure against drought I ran out furrows five inches deep, running east and west three and a half feet apart, and set the plants three feet on the south side of the furrows, covering the plants with hoes up to the lower leaves, and compressing the soil on the roots ; afterwards, covered the roots with long stable manure to act as a mulch. A few days thereafter I drew over a slight layer of earth. The plants are in a thriving condition, and scarcely one missing ; on the contrary, my neighbors, with scarcely an exception, have lost their crops by the usual mode of surface planting. I also mulched my potatoes and other vegetables with equal success. It will be noticed that the surface during a drought is dry and hard—on the contrary deep furrows are moist. A strong argument I think in favor of planting roots and sowing seed in furrows. Roots that require hilling, the earth should be closed in on either side. The common turnip, which does not require hilling, the ridges ought to be broken down. We are told that in China, rice is planted on mountains and elevated situations, and managed thus : oval or inclined ridges three feet wide are thrown up, on either side deep furrows are made, in which the rice is deposited ; consequently, the ridges being convex or inclined, every rain that falls the water flows into those furrows, being protected from the noon-day sun, are moist, which the rice crop requires. Your comments in reference to the article in the July number by a "Marylander" are in the main correct, but in recommending from five to six lbs. of rape seed to be sown per acre, you are rather extravagant. The usual quantity of the common turnip seed sown broadcast is one pound per acre, and for rutabaga or rape, one pound and a half.—For the drill system half the quantity of seed named is sufficient. Barring that the common turnip seed is fresh, and no interruption from the fly-beetle, two ounces of seed in drill, or five ounces broadcast is sufficient. For an acre, English writers say that for sheep pasture fifteen pounds of rape seed ought to be sown per acre, and from four to five pounds in drills, when seed is the object. Yours and the English estimate reminds me of a conversation I had some years since with General Howard, of Maryland, in regard to the quantity of white clover seed that was requisite for a lawn containing

an acre of land. I recommended four quarts ; he remarked that he was instructed by Mr. D., of the State of New York, the celebrated writer on the subject of the various cultures and rural architecture, to sow five bushels per acre. I remarked to the General that if he sowed that quantity the plants would stand ten times thicker than the hairs on a cat's back, and the effort prove a failure. By the way I will add, if you please, that one quart of white clover, mixed with two bushels of fresh lawn grass seed, is sufficient to seed an acre.

I was delighted and instructed by reading "Our Virginia Trip." I read the article three times over, and intend duplicating the reading during leisure hours. I ought to have said before, sow rutabaga on a seed bed about the first of June, and frequently water with rain or soft water, which will insure a stand. The plants ought to be thinned out about four inches apart ; those drawn might be set in a separate seed bed. When they become strong and stocky, be finally transplanted in rows ten inches apart, and twenty-four inches between the rows.—Rape may be transplanted and managed in the same manner. It is a common practice among market gardeners to sow rape, *alias* Siberian Kale, Hanover turnip, Delaware kale, and as the Dutch have it, Bocoli, with the common turnip ; the turnips removed the last of October, and the rape left standing, and cut for spring greens. As we have had a very backward spring, it may occur that the autumn will be lengthened out in proportion ; in that event late planting (especially the common turnip) is preferable. Very large turnips contain very little else than wood and water.

CORN STALKS, CORN AND COB MEAL, ETC.

Forage crops being short, every particle of corn-fodder ought to be saved, and carefully cured, the stalks cut up, (or steamed) and mixed with corn and cob, which, with a small portion of corn or rye chop, would make a more fattening and nutritious food than corn alone, and a saving of hay of 50 per cent. We are having a glorious rain, (August 16) which I trust will give general satisfaction. I really believe had those crokers the power they would impeach the Almighty for dereliction of duty.

PLOWMAN.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR.—The Fourth Annual Fair of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society of South Carolina, will open in Columbia, South Carolina, on the 4th of November next. The premium list is already out and literal. Address Col. Wyatt Aiken, Secretary, Cokesbury, South Carolina.

Always give the name of your **Post Office** and **State**, at the heading of your letter, and in legible characters.

Ladies Department.

A CHAT WITH THE LADIES FOR SEPTEMBER.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"How splendid all the sky! how still!
How mild the dying gale!
How soft the whispers of the rill,
That winds along the vale!
So tranquil nature's works appear,
It seems the Sabbath of the year,
As if, the summer's labor past, she chose
This season's sober calm for blanching repose."

This month recalls the wanderers home. Those who have been absent in search of health, pleasure-seekers, sight-seers, and lovers of travel, are returning to the Town and rural homes, most I fear in a less healthy condition than those who were "tied," as it is said, at home. The change of air and scene to the invalid or overworked and brain over-strained, are no doubt benefitted by travel, if they lived while away prudently, and with a view to a perfect restoration of the shattered system, but how many have injured their health instead of improving it? The country girl, leading a temperate, quiet life, keeping early hours and exercising in a wholesome atmosphere leaves home, a buoyant spirit—robust in health, with cheeks blooming with the color that her own lily and rose bestowed, whilst at early dawn she cultivated and tenderly dressed them, goes in crowded cars under a burning sun, to some fashionable watering place, and enjoys?—life in a stiflingly small chamber, to sleep half the day and dress in the other half; then to dine on rare and costly luxuries to which she had been unused, and all night, or till "the wee sma' hours of morn'g," in a crowded suffocating ball-room, exhausting herself in the mazy dance or twirl of the giddy waltz, but often refreshing herself and stimulating fainting nature by ices, iced champagne, lobster salads and pate de foie gras, with Roman Punch as a "night-cap" at 2 o'clock in the morning.

What constitution can stand this violent change from a pure to a heated impure atmosphere, from plain life-sustaining country diet to exciting drinks and deleterious and luxurious food? This is a true picture and I fear it delineates the cause why so many country beauties lose health and beauty after "going to the springs." If ladies would travel for enjoyment of change of air, scenery and enlarging their knowledge of the world and of its inhabitants, and personally seeing its wonders and its beauties and avoid all excitements during the hot spells of weather, they would be then benefitted instead of injured by summer travelling. They would return to their homes and friends, not languishing and pale; looking care worn and showing plainly the effects of dissipation and loss of rest, but improved mentally and physically, in health and spirit, in beauty and attractiveness.

Old Peter Parley writes of this month: "The year is now on the wane. It has reached 'a certain age.' If September is not so bright with promise and so buoyant with hope as May, it is still the fulfiller of promises, the fruition of all hope, the era of all completeness."

September brings the perfectness of peaches, pears, grapes, nectarines, some apples, and such nuts as chestnuts, filberts and English walnuts; all these every good manager of a homestead ought to have in abundance in our climate and region of country.

Dry Fruits—Can Fruits—Can Vegetables—Do your Pickling of Fruits and Vegetables—Preserve Fruits—all, all this month. A little labor and time now expended will be the

source of much comfort and satisfaction next winter, when you and your family and friends are enjoying beans, corn, tomatoes, etc., almost as good as when fresh in summer, and you will be proud and thankful in the possession of dozens of cans and jars of peaches, pears, and grapes, to say nothing of the glorious Brandy Peaches, etc. Few know what a source of comfort and of revenue these small industries are unless their households have to their own credit and honor practiced the system. Poverty drove our southern sister into it, and they have reaped their reward. Millions of dollars have been realized, which before were lost and never garnered, by the collected products from the thousands of families that never tried it before. I have seen it stated, where a small village in North Carolina, numbering not half a dozen stores, sent north or to the cities on or near the sea-board, ninety-six thousand dollars worth of dried cherries, blackberries, whortleberries, gooseberries, plums, damsons, apples and peaches, received by the merchants from the people of the surrounding country in exchange for groceries. Think of this! ye pains-taking, notable, industrious matrons, and proud would be future wives too independent in spirit to ask a grumbling spouse for pin-money.

If you determine to dry fruits on a considerable scale, beyond the wants of the family, you ought to get an Apple Parer, or Peach Parer, which pares, cores or stones and slices at one operation, a Cherry Seeder, and a Drying House, you would then be fixed for an extensive business. The first two cost but a trifle, the Drying House from \$15 to \$40 dollars, but it will dry from 6 to 40 bushels in six hours, and the fruit beautiful in color and warranted to keep. It soon pays for itself. Tomatoes thus dried and when soaked in water before use, are said to return more of the aroma in taste and be more like fresh tomatoes than when canned, however successfully. But if this system is not pursued as a source of profit, our fair friend should see that an ample supply be secured for the comfort and delectation of the household and the poor and sick of their neighborhood in the coming winter. Many a fine girl would retain her blooming beauty and health by such half play, half work and receive the real, heartfelt praise and grateful commendation of her male friends, if she indulged in this labor of love, instead of having her cheeks pale and her health impaired by party-going, leaving ball-room heated by dancing, and thinly clad going home in the small hours, riding through, perhaps miles, a chilling, damp, miasmatic atmosphere. Now my dear, little beauty don't spoil your looks by turning up your nose and looking the picture of contempt upon me, for it is true and meant for your real good, however unpalatable it may be to you and your thoughtless gallants, who love moonlight rides and talks by moonlight, as I confess once I did, but it was before I became a father and reached the years of discretion.

Every notable house-keeper should remember St. Michael's or Micheal-mas Day—the 29th inst.—and obey the domestic law of old Queen Bess of England, which ordains that a green goose shall be served up on every table, in commemoration that she was dining heartily on this splendid bird at the moment news was brought to her of the total destruction of the dreaded Spanish Armada. Ham and cabbage, a fat gosling with corn and tomatoes, then "matrimony," melons off the ice, and a bottle of gooseberry or blackberry wine—ye Gods! a dinner not beaten by Delmonico or Barnum, both princes of the hum-bug!!—and yet, every really good house-keeper in the country can set forth such a table at short notice, at the outlay of a few cents, each article being the product of domestic care, at-

tention and small outlay. The only requirements being industry, and constant superintendence of the various departments of the household, appertaining to the duties of the mistress. To have such a dinner in Town the mistress would lay out in *cash* not less than \$5.

"Behold then ye country ladies the beauties of economy in a country life. Oh! that I could once more realize the sweets of a rural home."

Now is the time for preserving quinces and I desire to have the pleasure to tell you of a Dutch recipe I have had given me after a trial, delectable to my palate of a *new*, to me, method of putting up this luscious Oriental fruit, which is delicious when spread on buttered bread as a lunch.

Quiddany.—A confection of quinces in consistency between a syrup and marmalade. Pare and core the fruit and slice, cover with brown or white sifted sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ pound for every 1 pound of fruit. Boil the rinds and cores, strain from them the water, and take one pint of the water to every 2 pounds of the fruit, and then boil the water, quinces and sugar until the quinces are perfectly soft—take them out, and mash to a pulp, return to the syrup, with a little ginger or the rind of one or more lemons if convenient, and boil until the whole has been reduced about one half of the original quantity, or to the consistency of thick cream, or not quite as thick as marmalade. Put in jars, cover close and you have something cheaper and more delicious than quince marmalade. Those who try this will thank me.

It is not too late to try my mode of "*deviling crabs*."—Pick a dozen crabs as if for *deviling*; season with pepper, salt, made mustard, red pepper, 4 grated or finely crumbled soda crackers, 2 ounces of nice butter $\frac{1}{2}$ wine glass of vinegar, 1 gill of water put in a chafing-dish; as soon as it begins to bubble, add 2 wine glasses of sherry wine and stir well, and the moment the mess begins to show it is boiling, blow out the light and serve it. There need be no inducements by way of eulogy to tempt the guests to eat; if any talking at all, let it be a warning about eating *too much*, or the dish may prove not enough to satisfy the intemperate palates of the company.

SANDY SPRINGS--GERANIUMS, &c.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

It gave me great pleasure to receive the following sweet little letter from the sprightly pen of a young lady whom I am sure is pretty, "gay and happy," "fancy free, and all my fancy painted her." I hope her example may be followed, and that through her and other lady correspondents, I shall be able to "chat" with our ladies knowingly on the fashions of woman's gear, as also about household comforts and inexpensive decorations, dinner fashions, etc., etc. In your next issue I shall tell her all about the culture of the beautiful plant, the name of which she has assumed as her *nom de plume*.

P. P.

SANDY SPRINGS, July 20th, 1872.

Dear Patuxent Planter:

You have often invited us to write and ask you questions. I now for the first time will bother you. I am on a visit to Sandy Spring neighborhood, Montgomery county. I have been familiar with flowers and ornamental plants of nearly all descriptions since my baby-hood; but am sorry to say, I have rarely found much taste or even attempts at its display in the adornments of our country homes. However, it is different about here; the people continue without spending money or much time and labor to have their

front yards beautiful, and blooming with sweets. I will tell you of one place that I fancy as a type of a country home in every way.

It is a farm situated between Ashton and Sandy Springs, owned by Mr. Charles Porter. The house is built on a slight eminence, with a broad lawn extending some distance to a neat, white paled fence on the Turnpike. In the centre of this lawn is a large circle, formed by a border of bright, many hued flowers. The house is a substantial frame building of commanding appearance from the public thorough-fare. On the east side of the house, is what I particularly admired, a mound quite large and high, built of rock and large flat stones "nature to the place," white and dark intermixed. The mound itself is an ornament without the flowers. But to show what taste can, and will do, Mrs. P., had all the crevices filled with rich earth and planted geraniums of all varieties—the Oak, Pepper, Rose, Fish, Tom Thumb, Nutmeg, Lemmon and a white and green striped leaved, besides others the names of which I cannot remember. Some were large and luxuriant, spreading over the rocks, and others peeping out here and there, and all looking bright and lovely as if they rejoiced in their rock bound realm. Everything in and around this homestead is in perfect keeping. I have partaken of its hospitality more than once, and oh! such butter, sponge-cake, rich cream, and luscious Kittatinny blackberries, and splendid cherries and pears—we city people never often partake of. Indeed all in that quiet, peaceful neighborhood, understand and pursue living and enjoying country life as do my old friends the Porters. Everything they have is their own, they are hospitable and kind to strangers; they bring back the roses to our pale cheeks and make us think ten-fold better of our race.

What I wish to ask is, do geraniums require a rich or poor soil? Should they be kept dry or moist? In fact, tell me all about their cultivation. I am ambitious to have a bed of these fine, rich blooming pets like my Montgomery friend.

By the coming year the *Maryland Farmer* will have a large list of subscribers in this county I hear, for I am sure there can be no better Agricultural paper in the present era, nor so obliging an Editor? for ladies, as Patuxent Planter, who will tell us, all he *knows* and *more*, if we wish it. I hope if my "*friends*" see this, they will cease subscribing to journals which are unacquainted with the wants of Maryland people, and take "*The Maryland Farmer*."

If you will allow me, I will sometimes join you in your "chat with the ladies;" upon the Fashions.

GERANIUM.

[ORIGINAL.]

THE LADIES' EXCUSE.

P. P.'s Chats are so entertaining, his fund of knowledge inexhaustible, and the subject of flowers so interesting, that I am sure the lady readers of the *Farmer* would greatly prefer his retaining the entire monopoly; however, as he accuses them of reticence, and intimates they are *afraid* to talk to the other sex, as such charges are not often brought against them, allow me to say a few words in their defence. Every lady can talk well upon the subjects of housekeeping, dairies and poultry-raising, and upon the everlasting topic of servant troubles. Their tongues are strong in the middle and play at both ends, but writing is quite another affair; they rack their brains for something new, some bright idea, but you pin them down to the same old story, and confine them to the tread-mill of every day affairs; another reason—your writers see everything through rose-colored glasses, everything is one grand suc-

cess. Now we often have failures in our department: our hens won't lay, our cows go dry, the worm cuts the early vegetables, the bugs destroy the grapes, the peaches have the yellows, the pears the blight, the curculio destroys our plums, &c., &c. And still another reason is, we do not have the same show the *other sex* have. I could write an essay on farming, but you would reject it at once as not *being practical*; but I am not sure it would not be fully as practical as many a one the readers of the *Tribune* have been treated to; and you are going to make Mr. Greeley head overseer of *Uncle Sam's* big farm, to enable him to carry his theory into practice. Well—so you see our reasons are good for not writing, and the last reason of all is *the weather is too hot!*

WICOMICO.

THE APPLE.

[ORIGINAL.]

Eve was tempted by an apple; but "the curse has been removed, and the object of the *Primal Sin* has become a great blessing." From the Early Harvest to the Late Russet, no fruit can supply the place of the apple with the often perplexed housekeeper; they are always when we need their rosy, golden faces to fill a sad vacancy upon our tables, and the basket of Spitsburgens and Pippins, how they help wile away the long winter evening; their bright colors, brightened by the blazing fire, and the cozy chat lengthened by their cheer.

"Pomona with a lavish hand pours the luscious fruit from her plenteous horn, so tempting to the eye and delicious to the taste as to make the ambrosial feasts of the Gods no longer to be coveted." Amongst the many receipts, for preparing the apple to please the palate, I send you the following thoroughly tested ones:

APPLE ICE.—Stew and strain one quart of apples, add the whites of two eggs, one pint of rich cream, flavor highly with lemon and nutmeg; stir into the mixture one quart of milk; sweeten all very sweet, and freeze as ice cream.

APPLE FLOAT.—One pint of apples strained, the whites of three eggs, a teacupful of thick cream, sugar enough to sweeten; beat all very light, pour one quart of milk in a glass bowl, add a gill of Madeira wine, pile the float upon the milk, and trim with bright colored jelly on the top.

APPLE CUSTARD.—Half a dozen mellow apples; peel and take out the core, leaving the fruit whole; slice two fresh lemons, mix with two cups of powdered sugar, fill the center of the apples with it, and sprinkle it over them; place them in a deep dish, and cover the whole with a sweet, rich custard, bake a light brown, sift powdered sugar over it, set upon ice until quite cold; this makes a delicious dessert.

WICOMICO.

Let willows fringe the sparkling stream,
And poplars line the land,
And let the maple's silver gleam
Be seen upon the plain.

Let elm and ash their shadows fling
Across the murmuring rills,
And let the pine's æolian strings
Make music on the hills.

RECEIVED.

From Lukens Pierce, Proprietor of the Ercildoun and Coatesville Nurseries, Pa., their general catalogue of Fruit Trees and Small Fruit Plants.

From Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., their annual Fall catalogue of Fruits, Bulbs, etc., elegantly illustrated.
From G. O. Kalb secretary, the Premium List and Regulations of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, to commence on the 3rd day of October. \$40,000 in Premiums are offered.

Boys and Girls Department.

FIRE.

We had quite an exciting time cut here on the farm the other day. We have been cleaning up all around the farm lately; trees along the line; fences have been cut down, and the swamps brambled off; a lot of matter had accumulated in different places so we concluded to burn it all up, and Will and I started to do the job.

It was during that first dry time we had early in the spring, and we started in swamp; the willows and briars went off lively, and we had to be very careful for just beyond lies the wood-land, and a year ago I set the boys to burning brush down there, while I took a little trip to Washington, and the fire got away from them, into the woods and started for a neighbor's house; they finally got the best of it, but when Hal went for his vest he found nothing where he had left but a pocket comb and jews-harp that were in the pockets; the vest was ashes.

But everything went very well with us this time; then we went along the new road and burnt up the tops of the hickory and chestnut and sassafras and oak trees, we had cut down in the winter which did not burn so briskly, but we got plenty of leaves from the fences and they went off directly.

All this time I had been with Will and we had no trouble, and as I had a little job to attend to in the meat house, I asked Will if he could not go up behind the orchard right back of the house and set the bush a fire which had been piled up there in the winter.

"He thought he could?"

"Can you roll it over away from the fence and manage it so that will be no trouble?"

"I think I can keep everything straight," said Will, and away he went with the matches, and I went into the meat house.

What I had to do was this: I found one of the cider barrels leaking, and as your old uncle is very fond of the article a little at a time, once in a while, I did not want to waste it.

In a few moments I heard a shout and looked out of the door.

The whole hill side was a sheet of blaze; Will was fighting the fire in the fence corners, and as the wind was brisk towards me, the raging element was rushing rapidly towards the house feeding on a heavy mulch of clover straw I had put on the ground during the winter.

Will had set the brush a fire without turning it off away from the fence and without forking up towards the pile any loose stuff that would be likely to carry the fire beyond control. Had he had done this and secured a small pine brush, the fire could have been readily subdued in the start. By the time I got to the fire, Hal was there, too, from the plow down in the oat lot.

At it we went with sticks; we were gaining on it when just as we were nearly exhausted, I looked behind and the fire was sweeping towards the house again over the mulch. The summer wood pile was right in its way, and the high wind appeared to have doomed house and outbuildings to destruction.

No time was to be lost.

"Hal," said I, "run down to the field and bring up the team and plow and you, Will, open all the gates on the way."

By this time the neighbors came pouring in. Fences were pulled down, and the fire arrested in that direction, and then I do not know how he did it but it appeared as if Hal had flown from the field with horses, for in a few moments he was at the lower gate with the horses, young and fiery they were, too; the same pair that ran away with me which I told you about in the February number—on a trot. Off goes his hat; bare-headed he pushed on; we could only wait for his action as our safety, as the heat was insupportable at close quarters; quickly he haws the team around, and begins to lay a furrow between the eager fire and its ready pasture; quick! quick! we urged; our hope is in that furrow and fire and furrow are together; will the horses go through the smoke? Will the furrow fall below the fire? Standing behind the plow track we were ready to beat out the flame if it should cross over, and on and through the fire and smoke pushed the brave bare-headed boy and noble horses to the green verge of the wheat field that stayed the mad fire on the southern side.

"Swing them around and back again, Hal," we shouted; and back they came.

"Now up and around the other fences and back again," and the thing was done; the fire did not cross the furrow

and was quickly put out, and the fences all torn down which gave us the master-ship.

And there are two lessons about this matter for farmer boys, which if well learned may avert some disaster in the future.

1. Never set fire to a bush pile near a fence; always scrape up close to the pile all loose supply laying around it that would be likely to carry the fire away from you, and have a good brush handy to put out running fire.

2. Get a plow to work as soon as possible even if you have to hitch up to do it.

POST OFFICE.

BY UNCLE FRANK.

[All communications for this department should be addressed to UNCLE FRANK, office of *Maryland Farmer*, Baltimore.]

First on the list is Willie Annie Lucas, Russellville, Ala., who writes about the days of the week in answer to the question in April number.

"Dear Uncle Frank: The April number is now at hand, in which your questions are asked which I think I can answer. I did not find the answers you first required till it was too late. Days of the week: 1. Sun-day, so called on account of this day having been anciently dedicated to the worship of the Sun. 2. Mon-day, from its being consecrated to the worship of the Moon, mon and day. 3. Tues-day, from Tuisco, the Mars of our ancestors; the deity that presided over combats; Tuesday was therefore court day; the day for combat. 4. Wed-nes-day; Wednesday, from Wodin or Odin, the deity of the Northern Nations of Europe. 5. Thurs-day; Thursday, the day consecrated to Thors, the God of Thunder. 6. Fri-day from Frigga, the Venus of the North. 7. Satur-day or Saturns-day."

(The remainder of W. A. L's., excellent and interesting letter about the months and the flying mammal will be published next month.)

Ella B., writes a very good and concise letter from West River, as follows: "The *Maryland Farmer* reached us a day or two ago, and in it I have observed the question you ask, and which I will try now to answer. The days of the week are derived from certain objects of ancient Saxon worship: Sunday from the Sun; Monday from the Moon; Tuisco the same with the Roman Mars gave name to Tuesday; Wednesday from Wodin their God of Battle. Thursday from Furaner the same with the Danish Thor, the God of Winds and Weather; Friday from Frigga, otherwise called Venus, who was sometimes worshipped as the Goddess of Peace and Plenty. Saturday, either from Sator the God of Freedom or from the planet Saturn. These I found in a book which I study. (About the months and mammal next month.)

Next is Henry Wilson, of Clay Co., W. Va.

"Dear Uncle Frank: I have found out a little about the origin of the days of the week. I did not have any books at home about it, but went on visit to Uncle George who keeps a good many books, and there I found out what follows: Monday means the Moon's Day, that day having been formerly sacred to that Planet. Tuesday is from Tuisco, who was the God of War among our ancestors and presided over combats, strife and litigation. Wednesday means Wodens Day from Wodin who was a deity or chief among the Nations of Northern Europe. Thursday was the day formerly consecrated to the deity Thor, who was the God of Thunder among the ancients, hence, Thursday or Thursday. Friday is from Frei or Frigga who was the Venus of the early Scandinavians and the day was named after her. Saturday means Saturn's Day, from Saturn who was considered among the early Greeks as the Father of the Gods; this day used to be the first day of the week, and it was set apart for the first of the Gods. Sunday is so called because it was anciently dedicated to the worship of the Sun. I will write about the names of months next month."

Mary S. Cherokee, N. C., writes to the same effect, but including one or two things not in the other letters.

"The days of the week were formerly represented in the persons of the chief Gods and Goddesses of the Greeks, who were supposed to preside over them. Saturn, was the oldest God and presided over their first day of the week; the next was the Sun's day, our first day; next was Diana's—or Luna's day, (which is the Moon) and our Monday. Next was the day of the God of War—Mars; but the Scandinavian gave their God of War, Wodin—Wednesday—Mercury, the messenger of the Gods, the Greek Wednesday, but the same deity among the early Germans—the Scandinavian Tuisco, represented Tuesday. Jupiter presided over Thursday, and Venus, the Goddess of Love, over Friday. Correct answers received from L. S. Lexington, S. C.; W. C. Pick-

ens, Geo.; Emma Smith, Charles Co., Md.; John L. V. Howard, Md.; James C. Barton, Clark Co., Va.; and M. L., Potter Co., Pa.

We will talk about the flying mammal and the months next month.

LAND SALES IN MARYLAND.

Talbot County.

Col. Sam. Hambleton, Trustee of Jno. Goldsborough, sold at public sale the Square Farm, in Chapel District, to Jesse and Jas. W. Tyson, of Baltimore, for \$8,150.

Howard County.

W. B. Peter, Auctioneer, sold for H. E. Wootton, Trustee, the farm of the late Greenbury Warfield, situated in the fourth district of this county, and containing 240 acres, to Asbury Mullineaux, for \$5.50 per acre.

W. H. Gaither sold to Caroline Parker 24 acres of land in the fourth district, for \$300.

Dr. W. W. Watkins sold 100 acres of land, situated in the fifth district, to William Welling, Esq., for \$2,250.

E. A. Talbot sold for H. E. Wootton, Trustee, the farm of the late James Morris, in the fifth district, containing 200 acres of land, to Dr. W. W. Watkins, for \$4,500 85.

Somerset County.

Mr. William H. Ross has purchased the farm upon which he has resided for the past two years, situated on Back Creek, Fairmont district, and containing 240 acres, for the sum of \$5,300. He purchased from the heirs of the late Joshua Hall.

Queen Anne's County.

George W. Taylor, Esq., executor of David Taylor, sold at public sale two farms belonging to Robert W. Price, Esq.; the first, "Lexon or Barbadoe's Hall," containing 186 acres, 3 roods and 39 perches, was purchased by Wm. McKeeney, Esq., at \$16.20 per acre; the second, "Dunbeigh," was purchased by Richard J. Carter, Esq., at \$38.62½ per acre. These farms were sold subject to a small mortgage.

Madison Brown, Esq., as trustee, sold at public sale in Centreville, the farm belonging to Mr. S. W. Thomas, situated in Wye Neck, containing 450 acres, to Mrs. Thomas Bright, for \$34.25 per acre.

Calvert County.

D. O. Lyles, Esq., trustee, sold the real estate of Washington Dorsey, deceased, situated near the head waters of "Parker's Creek," and containing 113 acres, for \$525, to James A. Gott.

STATE FAIRS 1872.

Central Iowa.....	Council Bluffs	Sept. 16-19
California.....	Sacramento	Sept. 19-28
Georgia.....	Atlanta	Oct. 14-19
Illinois.....	Ottawa	Sept. 16-21
Iowa.....	Cedar Rapids	Sept. 9-13
Industrial Ass'n.....	Kansas City, Mo.	Sept. 23-28
Indiana.....	Indianapolis	Sept. 30-Oct.-1
Kansas.....	Topeka	Sept. 16-20
Kentucky.....	Lexington	Sept. 10-12
Maryland Institute.....	Baltimore	Oct. 1-30
Maryland.....	Baltimore	Oct. 8-12
Michigan.....	Kalamazoo	Sept. 17-20
Minnesota.....	St. Paul	Sept. 17-19
Maine.....	Bangor	Sept. 17-20
New England.....	Lowell	Oct. 3-12
Northern Kansas.....	Atchison	Sept. 10-14
Northern Ohio.....	Cleveland	Sept. 16-20
Northern Michigan.....	Grand Rapids	Sept. 16-21
Northern Wisconsin.....	Oshkosh	Sept. 30-1
New York.....	Elmira	Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Nebraska.....	Lincoln	Sept. 3-6
North Carolina.....	Charlotte	Oct. 22-26
Ohio.....	Mansfield	Sept. 2-6
Pennsylvania.....	Erie	Sept. 17-20
St. Louis A. & M. Ass'n.....	St. Louis	Oct. 3-12
Virginia.....	Richmond	Sept. 26-29
Wisconsin.....	Milwaukee	Sept. 28-30
Farmers & Mech. Ass'n.....	Goldsboro N. C.	Oct. 22-25